southern voice

Smelling like roses

Openly gay Academy Award winner Alan Ball will take theater over television any day. And it shows. His Oscar firmly in hand for his 'American Beauty' screenplay, Ball now opens a play in his hometown of Atlanta.

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VOLUME 14, ISSUE 01 WWW.SOVO.COM ALL THE NEWS FOR YOUR *LIFE*. AND YOUR *STYLE*. FEBRUARY 15/2001

ATLANTA EDITION

Mortgage broker Sean Waites announces her campaign for Atlanta City Council, becoming the fifth openly gay candidate on the ballot for November's election.

ATL section, page 3

Comedy and drag abound as Chris (Chris Ekholm) presents the head of John the Baptist (Rob Cleveland) to Salome (Matt Johnson) in Horizon Theatre's send-up of the holy word, 'The Bible.'

ATL section, page 13

President Bush flip-flopped on the fate of the White House AIDS office, the same week sobering statistics about HIV infections were released.

Page 8

Visitation case tests weight of VT civil unions in GA

ATLANTA—Last summer, Susan and Debra Freer traveled to Vermont to join their lives in a civil union, which under Vermont state law gives gay couples the same rights and responsibilities as heterosexual married couples.

So when Susan's ex-husband charged her with contempt of court for allegedly violating a divorce provision against visiting her children in the presence of someone to whom she isn't married, Freer and her attorney argued that the civil union should be counted as a marriage.

Now a Floyd County judge has issued what may be the first ruling on whether Vermont civil unions carry legal weight in Georgia, and attorneys say the results aren't encouraging.

Judge Larry Salmon did not find Freer in "willful contempt," essentially meaning she did not violate the provision on purpose. But the judge also said her civil union didn't count to fulfill the rule in the future.

As the legal wrangling continues, Freer hasn't been able to visit her three children for six months.

Turn to the ATL section, page 1

JO YOUNGBLOOD

Debra and Susan Freer (right) hoped the civil union they entered into in Vermont would satisfy a requirement in Susan's divorce that said she couldn't visit her three children while living with anyone to whom she isn't married or related.

'Urban pioneers' see change in gay ATL

Gay gentrification provides dramatic urban improvements, but also pushes rents skyward and gays outward

by ERIC ERICKSON

ATLANTA—Jack Steelman has watched his neighborhood go from slightly run-down and dirty to a mecca of real estate development.

When Steelman and his partner moved to Midtown in the early '80s, many people had already deserted the area.

As Midtown residents made a mass exodus for

➢ Continued on Page 12

As construction booms in Midtown along well-known thoroughfares like Piedmont Avenue, property values—and taxes—escalate, putting the squeeze on the areas gays who helped spur the building boom.

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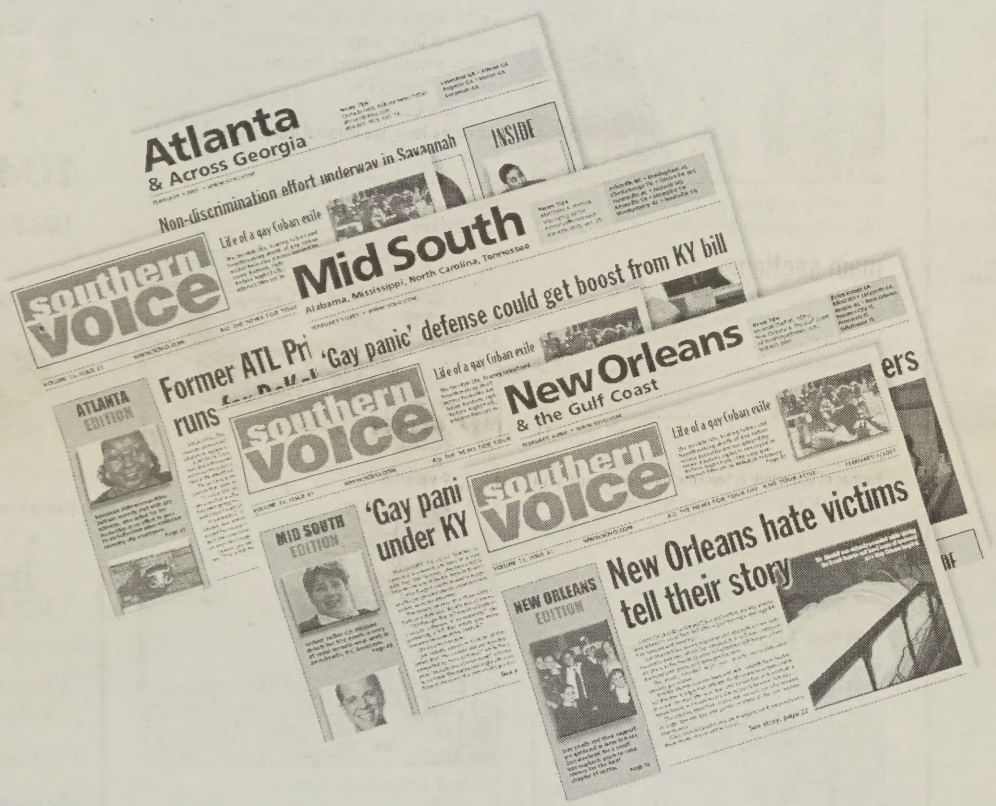

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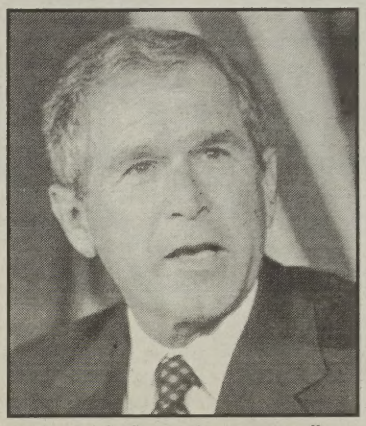

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Proud History

A few gay and bisexual black men and women who changed the world

Compiled by ASLAN BROOKE

There was a time when black men and women were seldom mentioned in gay and lesbian histories.

In honor of Black History Month, we've compiled some of the interesting and forceful personalities from the past whose contributions and lives helped make up our collective gay history.

'Ma' Rainey, Mother of the Blues.

Benjamin Banneker

Benjamin Banneker, known as the first African-American man of science, was born in 1731 in Ellicott's Mills, Md. His maternal grandmother was a white Englishwoman who came to this country, bought two slaves and then liberated and married one of them; their daughter, who also married a slave, was Banneker's mother.

Although he had no previous training, when Banneker was only 22 he invented a wooden clock that kept accurate time throughout his life. In 1773 he began making astronomical calculations for almanacs.

In the spring of 1789, he accurately predicted a solar eclipse; that same year, he was the first African-American appointed to the President's Capital Commission.

He never married and is not known to have had any liaisons with women. In one of his early essays, he stated that poverty, disease and violence are more tolerable than the "pungent stings which guilty passions dart into the heart," causing some historians to view him as most probably gay.

In 1790, he sold his farm and spent the rest of his life publishing his works on astronomy, mathematics and the abolition of slavery. Toward the end of his life, he produced a dissertation on bees, a study of locust-plague cycles and more letters on segregationist trends in America. He died at age 75 in Boston in 1806. In 1980, the U.S. Post Office issued a Black Heritage commemorative stamp in his honor.

Benjamin Banneker is known as the first African-American man of science.

'Ma' Rainey

Mother of the Blues "Ma" Rainey was born Gertrude Pridgett on April 26, 1886, in Columbus, Ga. Her parents were in show business and Rainey made her own first stage appearance in 1900 at age 14 as part of the show "A Bunch of Blackberries" at the Springer Opera House in Columbus.

In 1904, Gertrude married Will "Pa" Rainey, a singing comedian with the Rabbit Foot Minstrels, and the two set off as a song and dance team to tour Southern tent shows. Rainey continued to tour successfully with several live shows, where she and Pa appeared as "Rainey and Rainey, Assassinators of the Blues."

After a brief retirement in Mexico in 1921, Rainey made her first recordings for Paramount, with such songs as "Moonshine Blues," "See See Rider" and "Jelly Bean Blues." A bisexual, one of Rainey's most explicit lesbian-content songs was "Prove It on Me Blues," with the famous lyric of "Went out last night with a crowd of my friends. They must've been women, 'cause I don't like no men."

Rainey retired from show business in 1935 and, after the deaths of her mother and sister, she settled in Columbus, where she divided her time between local church work and ownership of two theaters (one of which was in Rome, Ga.) She died on Dec. 22, 1939, at age 53.

'Can Fire in the Park' 1946 oil on canvas by Beauford Delaney.

Beauford Delaney

Artist Beauford Delaney was born in 1901 in Knoxville, Tenn., to a Methodist minister and his wife. Despite the perceived handicap of being a black man and a Southerner, he was encouraged to pursue an artistic career, and at age 24 moved to Boston to study art. Five years later he moved to New York.

Spending time in Harlem and Greenwich Village, he would come to count James Baldwin, Henry Miller, Marian Anderson, Georgia O'Keefe and Al Hirschfeld among his friends.

In 1953, he moved to Paris where he became friends with Jean Genet. By 1961, his heavy drinking began to impair his mental and physical health, and his last years, before his death in 1979, were spent in a mental hospital.

In 1964, James Baldwin said of Delaney that "the darkness of Beauford's beginnings, in Tennessee, many years ago, was a black-blue midnight indeed, opaque and full of sorrow. And I do not know, nor will any of us ever really know, what kind of strength it was that enabled him to make so dogged and splendid a journey."

Josephine Baker

In 1924, Josephine Baker came to the attention of Caroline Dudley, a white woman "with a passion for black shows." Dudley came up with the idea of taking black performers to Paris, and offered a position to Baker.

She became the rage of Paris, and she eagerly adopted its fashions. During this period, according to biographer Phyllis Rose, Baker was notoriously promiscuous.

"For Josephine Baker, sex was a pleasurable form of exercise, like dancing, and she wasn't notably fussy about her partners." In addition to relationships with men, throughout most of her life Baker was known to have had many same-sex affairs.

During World War II, she was recruited as a spy for the French Resistance, for which she received the Medal of the Resistance with rosette. Later, she was also awarded the Legion of Honor.

In 1973, she returned to the United States for a successful appearance at Carnegie Hall, which she hoped to follow with a 17-city tour in the fall, although in July she had a second heart attack that left her face partially paralyzed.

Two years later on April 8, 1975, Baker returned to the stage for one final performance. That evening a gala was held at the Hotel Bristol to celebrate Baker's 50 years as an entertainer in Paris.

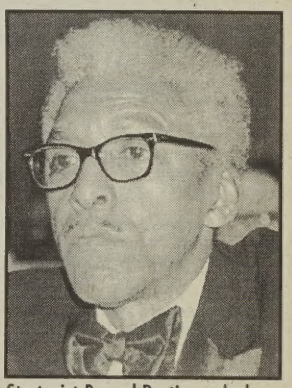
The following afternoon, she did not wake up from her regular nap; she suffered a massive cerebral hemorrhage.

Josephine Baker died on April 14, 1975. Her televised state funeral the following day at the Madeleine church drew 20,000 people, and she is the only American woman to receive an official 21-gun salute from the French government.

Josephine Baker received the Legion of Honor after World War II.

Bayard Rustin

Despite the specter of homophobia and fear of communism that shadowed much of his life and forced him to work behind the scenes, civil rights activist Bayard Rustin is today remembered as one of the most influential strategists of his time.



Strategist Bayard Rustin worked closely with Martin Luther King Jr.

One of nine children, Rustin was born in 1910 and grew up in a poor section of West Chester, Pa. In the 1930s and '40s he was attracted to the Communist Party because of its stance on racial issues and traveled the country under its banner speaking out against segregation and social injustice.

But "with the outbreak of World War II and the subsequent shift by the Party away from domestic reforms, Rustin was asked to stop his anti-segregation work. He quickly resigned."

In 1942, Rustin was hired by radical reformer A.J. Muste to head the Fellowship for Reconciliation's Department of Race Relations—out of this came the Congress of Racial Equality, also known as CORE.

In the 1960s he worked with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a confidant, advisor and speechwriter until King was assassinated in 1968. In 1960, after the black congressman Adam Clayton Powell threatened to expose Rustin's personal life and political past with the Party, he resigned from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which he had helped create.

➢ Continued on Page 5

Gay blacks helped change history

➢ Continues from Page 4

Making a comeback, A. Philip Randolph made Rustin his official march deputy for the historic 1963 March on Washington.

He died in 1987 at age 77.

Alvin Ailey

Dancer and choreographer Alvin Ailey was born in Rogers, Texas, on Jan. 5, 1931.

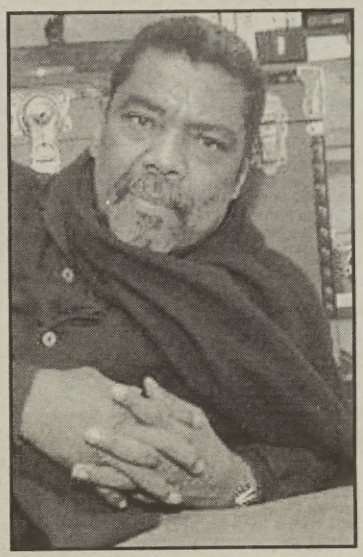
As a boy, he moved to Los Angeles with his mother. When he was taken on a school trip to see the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, he developed an interest in dance. Roaming the theatre district, he saw his first black dance troupe.

According to "Gay & Lesbian Biography," when Ailey saw a black student, Carmen de Lavallade, dance in a Mozart piece in high school, he was convinced to try dancing classes with her at the Lester Horton studio. Horton, a white gay man, became "a pivotal force" in Ailey's life. When Horton died in 1953, Ailey took over the studio, but needed to create his own style.

After studying dance with a number of teachers including Martha Graham, Ailey put together a troupe and gave his first concert on March 30, 1958.

In 1965, Ailey stopped dancing and turned the dance theatre, with its training company, the Alvin Ailey Repertory Ensemble and the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, over to others.

He was able to keep his dance troupe together into the '80s, and, in 1984, he and the troupe "enjoyed a tremendous success" at their 25th anniversary at the New York City Center. Ailey died Dec. 1, 1989, of complications from HIV.



Texas native Alvin Arley turned an interest in dance into a successful career as a dancer and choreographer.

This story originally appeared in Frontiers *magazine.*

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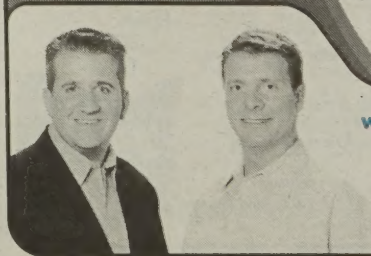

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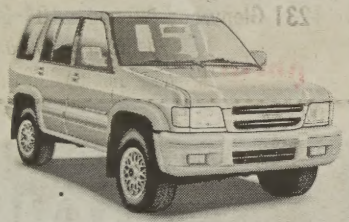
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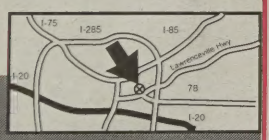

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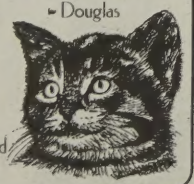
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around the nation

Clinton caught in flap over lesbian joke overheard at NYC dinner

NEW YORK CITY—A controversy has erupted over whether former president Bill Clinton told lesbian jokes at a New York Italian restaurant. The *Washington Blade* reported that Clinton was eating with former Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerrey and several former staffers, including open lesbian chief of staff Karen Tramontano, and regaled his table with several "raunchy lesbian jokes." A Feb. 9 report in the *Washington Post*'s "Reliable Source" column has Kerrey saying he was the joke teller, and that he and Clinton were reminiscing about a controversy during the 1992 presidential campaign when Kerrey apologized for telling a lesbian joke that was picked up by a C-SPAN camera. Kerrey refused to say whether Clinton was also telling jokes that evening. "I don't want to nail it down. To me, it's not sufficiently important to get the facts straight. I'm feeling a little like Rhett Butler. Frankly, I don't give a damn," said Kerrey, who now serves as president of Manhattan's New School University.

AP/NATH HARNIK

Former Nebraska Sen. Bob Kerry has taken the blame for telling a 'raunchy lesbian joke' during a recent dinner with President Clinton in New York. Kerry was criticized during his failed 1991 presidential campaign for a similar joke.

IL judicial board criticizes judge for anti-gay bias in decisions

CHICAGO—An Illinois agency filed a complaint Feb. 5 against a Cook County Circuit Court judge, claiming that her bias against gays "resulted in her making rulings contrary to Illinois law and advancing her own personal beliefs," the *Chicago Tribune* reported. The Judicial Inquiry Board filed the complaint against Judge Susan McDunn stemming from her handling of two lesbian adoption cases in 1998 and 1999. McDunn, the complaint alleged, continued to issue rulings despite the presiding judge removing her from the cases. McDunn also "disobeyed the law" by providing confidential information in the cases to a conservative Washington, D.C., group that opposes adoptions by gays. McDunn's handling of the cases prompted a stinging rebuke from the Appellate Court in June 1999, and led to her removal from courtroom duties. "This case is an egregious example of a judge putting her political viewpoint ahead of her judicial obligations," said John Gallo, who is handling the case for the state. McDunn's attorney, Michael Lavelle, pledged to mount a strong defense.

Cap on straight players fuels controversy in FL gay softball league

FORT LAUDERDALE—South Florida gay groups are threatening to boycott that area's gay softball league for limiting the number of straights who can play on a team to two, the *Ft. Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel* reported. The rule has been in place for years locally and nationally within the North American Gay Amateur Athletes Alliance, enabling gay players to be more open about displays of affection and preventing teams from trying to win by stacking the team with straight athletes. But this year, the rule incited a boycott of the South Florida Softball League by *Express*, a local gay paper, and the Gay & Lesbian Community Center. "We cannot say don't judge us by our sexual orientation and then turn around and judge others by it," said Larry Wald, co-owner of Cathode Ray bar, who threatened to pull his team and "do everything I can to make sure [the league] falls apart" if the rule remained.

Baltimore housing commish returns after drunken, anti-gay tirade

BALTIMORE—The city's housing commissioner, who took a month-long leave after a drunken episode during which he allegedly made anti-gay remarks, has apologized and was slated to meet with gay activists this week, the *Baltimore Sun* reported. Paul T. Graziano took paid leave Jan. 4 after admitting to a drinking problem. Gay leaders asked Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley to fire Graziano, but O'Malley declined after he apologized for the remarks, which Graziano said he did not remember making. "I would like to take the opportunity of our Feb. 13 meeting to express my heartfelt apologies for the hurt that I have inflicted and to explain how this horrible event has prompted me to recognize the presence of and obtain treatment for my illness," Graziano said in a statement released through the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Baltimore. O'Malley chose Graziano, who had had been general manager of the New York City Housing Authority until last year, to run one of the city's most troubled agencies.

Democrats retain openly gay business writer as top official

WASHINGTON—Terry McAuliffe, newly installed chair of the Democratic National Committee, asked the committee to re-elect openly gay business writer Andrew Tobias as the Democratic Party's national treasurer, and the committee did so unanimously, the *Washington Blade* reported. McAuliffe's decision to retain Tobias, who became party treasurer in January 1999, is considered significant because of McAuliffe's reputation as an extraordinary political fund-raiser. Tobias is credited with raising more than $10 million from gay contributors during his tenure. The Gay & Lesbian American Caucus of the Democratic National Committee also elected new officers Feb. 7, including chair Jeff Soref from New York, New Mexico delegate Gloria Nieto as vice chair, and Mandy Carter from North Carolina as secretary-treasurer.

—From staff and wire reports

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legislative news

With blessing from gays, Houston mayor drops bid for DP benefits

HOUSTON—Houston Mayor Lee Brown put on hold this week efforts to offer health benefits to the same-sex partners of city workers at the request of the gay leaders, according to the *Houston Chronicle*. Instead, the mayor will repeat a battle from 1985, trying for an ordinance banning discrimination against gays. Gay leaders requested that the anti-discrimination ordinance come before the benefits are passed so that gay employees do not have to fear for their jobs if they out themselves by asking for the benefit. City Council passed an anti-discrimination order for gay employees in 1985, only to have it overturned in a referendum. Brown issued an anti-discrimination order shortly after taking office in 1998. It has been held up in court since then, after City Council member Rob Todd filed an injunction against it. Todd called the action this week a victory for conservatives. Council member Annise Parker, who held a news conference Monday to explain the administration's change in tack, said the council can override the 1985 referendum, even if the mayor cannot. "You really don't want to know my opinion of Mr. Todd's legal abilities, but I'm glad he's not the city attorney," said Parker, a lesbian. The change in strategy comes just two days before the council was poised to debate—and pass—same-sex benefits.

Annise Parker, the only openly gay member of the Houston City Council, supported efforts to swap a measure adding domestic partner benefits for gay employees with an ordinance banning gay bias.

CO Senate committee okays gay inheritance bill over opposition

DENVER—A Colorado Senate committee approved by a 4-3 party-line vote Feb. 5 a bill that would allow the surviving partner in a same-sex relationship to inherit the couple's property after one dies, even without a will, the *Denver Post* reported. To inherit from a partner, Senate Bill 159 would require that the couple had signed an affidavit declaring that they are "committed partners." The measure now goes to the full Senate for debate, where it is expected to encounter strong opposition from conservatives who argue that the measure comes too close to sanctioning same-sex marriage. "This could have been done without making it a gay rights issue," said state Sen. Mark Hillman, a Republican who wanted the bill expanded to include more than just gay couples.

Hate crime bill in Texas, once stalled by GOP, jumps first hurdle

AUSTIN, Texas—By a vote of 5-1, the state Senate's Criminal Justice committee approved a comprehensive hate crimes bill Feb. 7 that includes increased penalties for those who commit crimes motivated by hatred toward gays. The same bill died in committee two years ago, held back by Republicans who wanted to keep then-Gov. George W. Bush from having to decide whether to sign the bill into law as he mounted his presidential campaign. Supporters said it has a good chance of becoming law. "The only reason it didn't pass the Senate last time was the presidential campaign," said state Rep. Debra Danburg, a gay-friendly Democrat from Houston. Other gay-friendly bills have been introduced, including a bill that would protect students from discrimination–including bias based on sexual orientation–and one that would ban workplace discrimination against gays. A bill prohibiting the recognition of same-sex marriage was also introduced.

UT Senate takes shot at gay couples with bill thwarting polygamy

SALT LAKE CITY—A bill designed to thwart polygamy also may threaten ministers who officiate at commitment ceremonies for gay couples, according to the *Salt Lake Tribune*. Senate Bill 146 would make it a felony for parents or guardians to "knowingly consent, encourage, promote or allow a minor child to enter into a prohibited marriage," and targets anyone who knowingly solemnizes a marriage outlawed in Utah. The Utah Senate gave preliminary approval, 25-0, to the measure Feb. 7, with a few conservatives signaling that their support was conditioned on the understanding that the bill would apply to gay marriages as well as polygamous unions. "It makes you wonder whether the Unitarian ministers who routinely conduct gay commitment ceremonies could be charged with a crime," says Laura Milliken Gray, a Salt Lake City attorney specializing in family law. The bill provides no penalty for the partners in an illegal marriage.

Despite recent anti-gay attack, MT lawmakers table hate crime bill

HELENA (AP)—An assault against an openly gay college student has led to a call for the revival of a bill that would expand Montana's hate crimes bill to include sexual orientation. "I thought it was a moral imperative [for this legislation] for years, but now it's a matter of safety," said Democratic Senate Minority Leader Steve Doherty. On Jan. 17, a gay Carroll College student was attacked in his dorm room after returning from a shower about 1:30 a.m. His name has not been released, and he has left school to return home to Spokane, Wash. Montana's existing law against hate crimes applies to offenses in which a person is targeted because of race, creed, religion, color, national origin or involvement in civil rights or human rights activities, and mandates tougher sentences. The bill was tabled Tuesday by the House Judiciary Committee.

—From staff and wire reports

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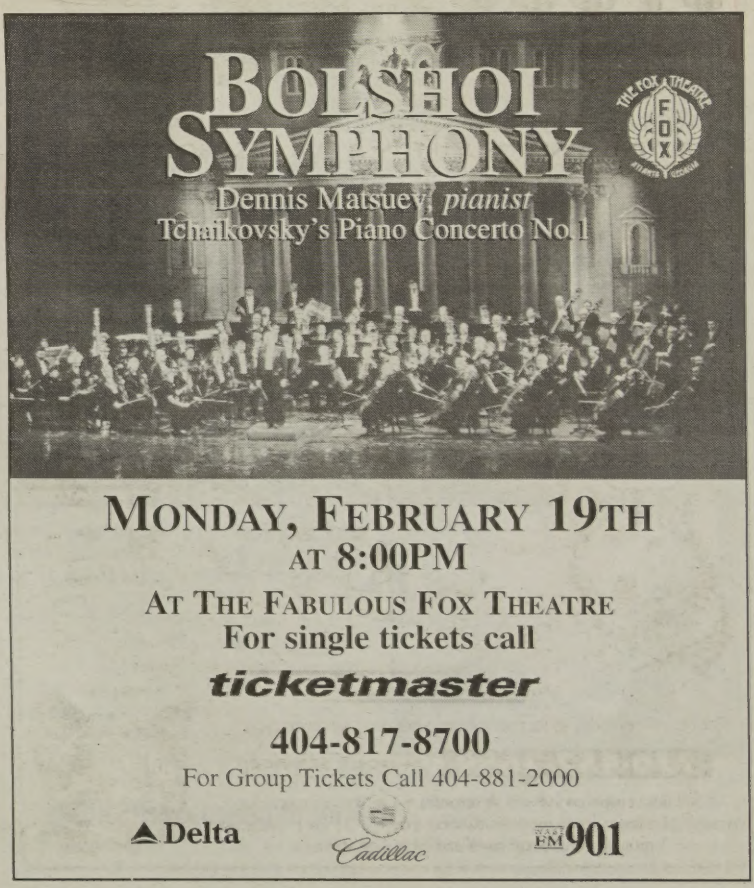


HIV prevention efforts face uncertain future

A prominent gay activist challenges San Francisco AIDS stats, as the CDC announces a new prevention effort and the Bush administration waffles on AIDS office

by ERIN O'BRIANT

A study showing rates of new HIV infections among gay men in San Francisco have doubled since 1997 came from "weak" research using uneven samples, a prominent gay author charged last week.

Gay pundit Andrew Sullivan took issue with statements issued by the San Francisco HIV Consensus Meeting, which said the rate of new HIV infections in San Francisco could reach 2.2 percent this year, up from the 1.04 percent rate last year.

Meanwhile, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention officials announced a new HIV prevention initiative at the 8th Conference on Retroviruses & Opportunistic Infections in Chicago Feb. 4-8, and the Bush administration waffled on whether the Office of National AIDS Policy would remain open.

SF studies flawed?

The San Francisco research indicated a doubling of the rates of new HIV infections *since 1997 in the city.*

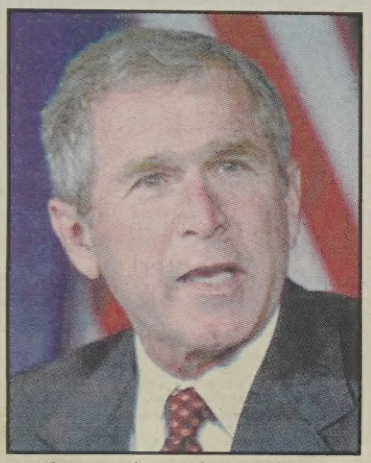
But according to Sullivan, those numbers can be explained by fluctuations in sample size. Only one of the studies in the body of research has "a reasonably representative sample of young gay men," he said.

Even that study came under fire from Sullivan, who claimed that fluctuations in sample size undermined researchers' conclusions.

Thomas Coates, director of the AIDS Research Institute & Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California, San Francisco, responded by saying the study Sullivan specifically criticized has "been published in peer reviewed journals and has withstood the peer review system."

Sullivan described the other studies in the report as "equally weak."

AIDS experts fear 'an ineffective federal response to AIDS in this country and abroad' if the Bush administration doesn't fully support its AIDS office, said Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People with AIDS.



A spokesperson for President Bush first said the new president would cancel the Office of National AIDS Policy, but Bush's chief of staff later called the statement a 'mistake.'

"No single study is without limitation," countered Coates. "But when such a large array of indicators, data, trends, numbers, community input and even actual clinic and health care visits indicate that something is shifting in the wrong direction, we would do best to not argue with the data but address the issue."

Focus on knowing HIV status

The CDC hopes to address the problem of new infections with its new HIV prevention program, the Serostatus Approach to Fighting the HIV Epidemic (SAFE). The initiative focuses on expanding voluntary counseling and testing programs to reach everyone living with HIV infection, including the estimated 200,000-275,000 Americans who are not aware that they are infected.

Officials hope SAFE will cut new HIV infections in half nationwide by 2005.

According to Robert Janssen, director of the CDC's division of HIV/AIDS prevention, studies show that people who know they are infected with HIV take steps to protect their partners. Also, new HIV therapies, by lowering viral load, may reduce an HIV-positive person's degree of infectiousness.

CDC officials said the organization needs an additional $200 million in funding to pursue the project fully.

"Funding will have to be from both public and private sources, leveraging the special skills the private sector has that we don't have," said Janssen.

Fate of national AIDS office

The CDC may rely more heavily than before on private funds for HIV prevention during President Bush's tenure.

USA Today and other news organizations reported last week that the Bush administration would close both the White House Office of National AIDS Policy and the President's Initiative for One America, after White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card made a statement to that effect.

But after the story broke, White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer denied plans to close the AIDS office, saying Card's statement was "a mistake."

In a press briefing Feb. 7, Fleischer said President Bush will continue to have an office dedicated to "fight[ing] the scourge of AIDS." The Department of Health & Human Services will "be detailing people to the White House," he said.

"In addition, at our Domestic Policy Council we will have a White House employee who is dedicated to fighting AIDS and developing policies that can help us fight AIDS. There is also a task force in place that will remain in place that also is concerned with the battle against AIDS," Fleischer said.

AIDS activists said they fear the Bush administration's waffling could bode ill for the campaign against the epidemic.

"Nothing I have heard from President Bush or Ari Fleischer clarifies the simple question, 'Are you going to have an AIDS czar whose exclusive responsibility is to be a national and international leader on AIDS issues?'" said Alexis Schuler, spokesperson for AIDS Action.

Fleischer avoided specific mentions of and plans for ONAP, the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, and the position of national AIDS policy director, Schuler said.

Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People with AIDS, expressed similar concerns.

"There are a lot of federal programs that affect people with AIDS and having one person in one office coordinating them and providing a voice in the White House is incredibly important," Anderson said. "The fear that we have is that we will have an ineffective federal response to AIDS in this country and abroad."

White House representatives did not return phone calls by press time.

HIV confab yields troubling stats, new guidelines

by ERIN O'BRIANT

The 8th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections took place in Chicago Feb. 4-8. Conference papers and presentations outlined important information for people affected by HIV and AIDS, including:

• A study presented at the conference by Susan J. Little of the University of California at San Diego showed that the incidence of drug-resistant strains of new HIV infection has risen to 14 percent. Participants in the study were from Birmingham, Ala., and other cities in North America, according to the *New York Times.*

Robert Janssen, director of the division of HIV/AIDS prevention at the Centers for Disease Control, suggested that researchers aren't sure whether Little is comparing numbers among people in the same population.

• The Department of Health & Human Services and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation issued an updated version of the "Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents" Feb. 5. The new guidelines recommend that doctors begin treatment when patients have a higher viral load and lower CD4 count than before.

• An ongoing study by a CDC epidemiologist showed that urban gay and bisexual men ages 23-29 have an overall HIV prevalence of 12.3 percent. The study, which included surveys of more than 2,400 men, sampled participants at public venues in Baltimore, Dallas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City and Seattle. Thirty percent of young African-American gay and bisexual men, 15 percent of Hispanics and 7 percent of whites were diagnosed with the virus.

"We're very concerned about the high rates of HIV among gay men of color and are looking at our best response to that," Janssen said.

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health news

Medical implant could give women pleasure at push of a button

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.—A physician in North Carolina is working on a medical implant that could offer women the chance to experience orgasm at the push of a button, according to CNN. Stuart Meloy, the doctor seeking a patent for the device, thinks it could allow women with orgasmic dysfunction to resume normal sex lives. The device would work by implanting electrodes in the spine and a small signal generator in the skin under the buttocks. The patient could then control the sensation with a handheld remote control. "I was treating [a patient with] a chronic pain condition and generated a response I was not anticipating," Meloy said. The patient told Meloy of the reaction, and his experiments shifted from the study of pain to that of pleasure. Clinical trials could begin later this year if Meloy receives funding from a major medical implant manufacturer. The initial cost would be $15,000, not including the surgical procedures required to install the device.

Microbicides see limited development over profit, liability concerns

CHICAGO—A potential avenue of AIDS prevention, the creation of microbicide gels and creams that would kill HIV during sex, may be thwarted by troubles during experimental trials, the *Chicago Sun-Times* reported. Microbicides would be especially valuable in fighting AIDS in Africa, where condom use is limited, and in some instances, during anal sex. "Ideally, women will one day be able to choose from among a wide range of microbicides, as they now choose from among a range of contraceptives," according to a report by the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a think tank specializing in reproductive health issues. But most big drug companies aren't developing microbicides because they would be sold over-the-counter, where profits are lower and liabilities higher. A company could be sued, for example, if its microbicide failed to prevent an HIV infection, scientists said. One microbicide being tested in Chicago is Pro 2000, which coats HIV, preventing it from entering and infecting human cells.

Mapping of genes could lead to secrets of genetic code, disease

WASHINGTON (AP)—Scientists released the results of the Human Genome Project, the mapping of the genes that comprise the human genetic code. "We are confirming Darwin," Sir John Sulston, who is spearheading the British end of the project, told Reuters on Feb. 12. One of the key uses of the project could be the ability to fight disease, since mutations in the genome either cause or predispose at least 1,500 diseases. Cancer researcher Barbara J. Trask told Associated Press that cancer is currently treated as a "disease of the genome" with a "sledgehammer approach." But the information gleaned from the mapping could lead to treatments that address only the cancer and leave the rest of the body alone. The project could also lead to an understanding of why AIDS affects some people immediately while leaving others unaffected for years.

The recently released results of the Human Genome Project could unleash the secrets to diseases like AIDS, said researcher Sir John Sulston.

Feds slow experimental drug approvals spurred by 1992 law

NEW YORK—U.S. drug regulators took almost 40 percent more time in 2000 than they did in 1999 to approve new prescription drugs, Reuters reported. The U.S. Food & Drug Administration last year approved 27 medicines that have active ingredients never before sold in the country. Last year, the FDA took an average of 17.6 months to approve the experimental drugs, compared with only 12.6 months for the 35 it approved in 1999. The slowdown ended a seven-year streak of faster approval times that was spurred by passage of the Prescription Drug User Fee Act in 1992, which was actively lobbied for by AIDS groups. Janet Woodcock, head of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation & Research, said her agency last year met all of the goals imposed by the 1992 law, including reviewing half of all original new drug applications within 10 months. "The FDA has met all of our goals. In fact, we exceeded them," Woodcock said.

Drugs pulled from market posed greater risk to women, FDA says

WASHINGTON—A draft of a federal government report suggests that eight of 10 prescription drugs that have been pulled from the market for safety reason since early 1997 may have posed greater risks to women than to men, according to CNN. The General Accounting Office report points out that the withdrawal of a drug from the market is less a judgment on the safety of a particular drug, and more a judgment on the relative risks and benefits compared with available alternatives. Four of the eight drugs may have showed disproportionate levels of risk to women because they are more often prescribed for women. The GAO report noted that in four other cases where drugs were evenly prescribed to men and women, physiological differences between the sexes may account for the higher risks. The drugs in question range from appetite suppressants Pondimin and Redux, antihistamines Seldane and Hismanal, the heartburn drug Propulsid, and Lotronex, which was used to treat irritable bowel syndrome.

—From staff and wire reports

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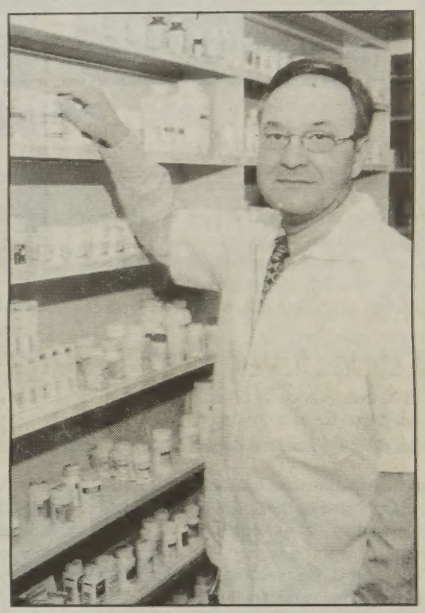

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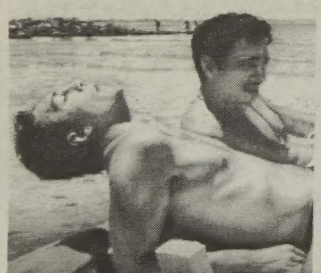
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around the world

New book charges IBM aided Nazi death camps with technology

NEW YORK—A new book charges that IBM's German subsidiary Dehomag aided the German government during World War II in identifying and selecting those who would be victims of the Holocaust, Reuters reported. Edwin Black's "IBM and the Holocaust: The Strategic Alliance Between Nazi Germany and America's Most Powerful Corporation" looks into a fact historians have known for years—that the company's Hollerith tabulators were used by the Nazis—and documents the extent to which IBM assisted the German government in tailoring the machines to meet their needs. The book includes a gruesome description of how concentration camps used IBM punch cards to categorize victims—the code for homosexuals was 3, Jews were 8 and Gypsies 12. IBM issued a statement through its Web site, but did not address directly the allegations in the book. Meanwhile, a lawsuit timed to coincide with the book's publication was filed on behalf of five Holocaust victims in a federal court in Brooklyn, charging that IBM knowingly supplied technology used to catalog death camp victims and aided in the "persecution, suffering and genocide" before and during the war. It was filed by the same team of attorneys who forced Germany last year to create a nearly $5 billion reparations fund for Nazi-era slaves.

Gays use start of Sydney Mardi Gras to attack anti-gay policies

SYDNEY—Gay groups used the launch of Sydney's famous Mardi Gras to attack homophobic and discriminatory policies from churches and the federal government, the *Australian* reported. Before a large crowd at Sydney Opera House, Mardi Gras President Julie Regan objected to the federal government's proposed legislation to repeal a recent decision giving lesbians equal access to government-supported in vitro fertilization. "The last 12 months have shown that the forces of discrimination and ignorance are strong and sanctioned at the highest level in this country," Regan said. The bill is due to be debated in federal Parliament next month. After the rally, Mardi Gras kicked off without a hitch, according to Associated Press reports. Last year's parade earned a blistering attack from church leaders, who branded it an "exercise in gross exhibitionism." This year has received no such rebuke. After starting in 1978 as a gay pride march which erupted into a riot, Mardi Gras has moved firmly into the mainstream of Sydney's cultural calendar.

Sydney kicked off its legendary Mardi Gras last week by attacking what organizers said were the anti-gay policies of the Australian government and churches.

Former U.K. tabloid editor joins group pursuing gay radio station

LONDON—A former editor of the British tabloid *The Sun* is part of a team bidding for a license to start a gay radio station, the *Independent* reported. Kelvin Mackenzie, who edited *The Sun* during a period when its sports coverage was considered homophobic by some, is now the head of the Wireless Group, a company that owns several other British radio stations. He has joined forces with Lord Alli, a Labor member of the House of Lords who is chairing Digital Radio Group, the consortium that hopes to launch Purple Radio. "Our bid is going to be something completely different and will attract a new generation to radio," Alli said. Two other groups with different plans are also bidding on the frequency.

Gay Socialist scores big approval ratings in bid for Paris mayor

PARIS (AP)—The openly gay Socialist candidate for Mayor of Paris has a higher approval rating than his conservative opponent. A poll found that Bertrand Delanoe, who came out in 1998, is considered by 53 percent of Parisians to be likely to be a good mayor, while only 33 percent think the same of Delanoe's conservative opponent, Philippe Seguin. A Delanoe victory would signal an upheaval in Parisian politics, since only conservative candidates have won since the city started electing mayors in 1977. Incumbent Mayor Jean Tiberi, who is under investigation for voting fraud, has refused to endorse Seguin, who has a much higher national profile than Delanoe, who kicked off a Gay Pride march last year in Paris that drew 100,000 people. The election is next month.

Most Australians don't support in vitro for lesbians, poll says

MELBOURNE—A poll has found that a majority of Australians oppose a new policy that gives lesbians and single women equal access to government-subsidized in vitro fertilization assistance, the *Age* reported. Conducted by the Morgan polling agency in October, the poll found that 54 percent of Australians disapproved of giving unmarried women access to sperm banks, even without government assistance. Only 38 percent approved and 8 percent were undecided. When asked about giving lesbians access, 59 percent disapproved, while 31 percent were in favor. The poll found that 85 percent approved of married couples using the IVF program, while 9 percent disapproved. The approval rating dropped to 79 percent when respondents were asked to consider giving the couples government assistance to use the program.

—From staff and wire reports

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police beat

Gay man charged in WA slaying of partner's mail-order bride

MOUNTLAKE TERRACE, Wash. (AP)—A woman who arrived from the former Soviet Union to marry an American was murdered last year, allegedly by a man who claims to be the male partner of the woman's husband. Anastasia Solovieva, 20 at the time of her death, was found in a shallow grave not far from her suburban Seattle home. Her husband, Indle King, Jr., 39, whose first marriage to another mail-order bride ended in divorce after she accused him of abuse, is jailed on perjury charges related to his wife's disappearance. Daniel Larson, 20, a former tenant at their house who claims he is King's gay partner, has been charged with Solovieva's death. Police say King led investigators to Larson, whom he had visited in jail where Larson was awaiting trial on unrelated charges of molesting a teen-age girl. Under police questioning, Larson allegedly said he strangled Solovieva with a necktie at King's request last September while King pinned her down. King denied playing a role in his wife's death.

Two lesbians included in pardon flurry during Clinton's last days

WASHINGTON—Two lesbians who had been convicted of planting a bomb in the U.S. capital in 1983 to protest the U.S. invasion of Grenada were among the 176 people who were issued pardons or clemency from Bill Clinton during his final days in office, the *Washington Blade* reported. Linda Evans and Susan Rosenberg, each of whom had been in prison for over a decade, were granted clemency by the president. A third lesbian involved in the bomb planting, Laura Whitehorn, had completed her sentence in 1999. Since her release, Whitehorn has worked as an assistant editor at *POZ* magazine. Evans, who lives in San Francisco, said she is excited about working again as an activist. Asked how the gay movement seems after more than a decade in prison, Evans said it was hard to tell. "I think too many gay people are identifying with the values that are against us or against life," she told the newspaper.

Linda Evans (left) and Susan Rosenberg, lesbians convicted of planting a bomb in Washington, D.C., were among the 176 people who received pardons in the final days of President Clinton's administration.

Protests over alleged bias don't delay execution of gay MO killer

POTOSI, Mo.—A gay man convicted of brutally murdering a teenage boy was put to death in Missouri on Feb. 7 despite protests by gay-rights and human rights organizations, Reuters reported. Stanley Dewaine Lingar, 37, died from legal injection while about 40 demonstrators protested outside the Potosi Correction Center, said prison spokesperson Tim Kniest. Lingar was sentenced to die for the January 1985 murder of Thomas Allen, 16, a high school student who was offered a lift by Lingar and Lingar's friend, David Smith. Lingar and Smith abducted Allen and killed him when he resisted orders to strip and masturbate in front of the men. Smith, who testified against Lingar, served a 10-year sentence. "The state of Missouri used Lingar's sexual orientation as a reason to give him a death sentence," said Queer Watch spokesperson William Dobbs.

Houston man arrested in strangulation death of popular drag queen

HOUSTON—A man accused in the death of Drin Shane Honeycutt, also known as popular female impersonator Brandi Houston, was arrested last week in Florida. Richard Masterson will face murder charges in Texas, said Sgt. R. G. Parish of the Houston Police Department. Parish declined to say where in Florida Masterson was picked up. Honeycutt, 35, was found dead in his apartment Jan. 27. There were "no visible wounds to his body," according to initial police reports, but police said Masterson allegedly strangled Honeycutt after the two met in a Houston gay bar. Honeycutt's car was missing, and police are considering robbery as a possible motive. They do not consider the murder to be a hate crime, Parish said. Honeycutt often raised funds for AIDS benefits and was popular in the Houston gay community. "Brandi was a big, big part of our community," said Don Gill, board chair for PWA Holiday Charities, which had recently named Honeycutt the group's "volunteer of the year" for 2000.

Lesbian couple sentenced in U.K. scheme to defraud investors

LONDON—A former brothel madam who rubbed shoulders with Queen Elizabeth II while defrauding wealthy investors was sentenced to five years in jail, the *Scotsman* reported. Australian Evelyn Burton, 57, together with her lesbian partner Lyla Andre, 50—who was sentenced to nearly four years in prison—used other investors' money to create the appearance of wealth and success, driving around in Rolls-Royces and staying at five-star hotels. An attorney told the court "that even professional men who otherwise are hard-headed and skilled in the matters of finance" were fooled by the women. Burton pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to defraud between October 1996 and March 1998. Andre admitted to one count of dishonestly retaining a wrongful credit card and two charges of evading a liability by deception. The two were once prostitutes who ran a massage parlor in Australia.

—From staff and wire reports

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the suburbs, many gays saw the perfect opportunity to build a community.

"I wouldn't live anywhere else because it's just the whole atmosphere. I walk to work, walk to the clubs. If I want to go, it's available," Steelman said.

Some 10 years ago, Steelman said most of his neighbors were gay and many of the homes on his street were abandoned. That's when major changes began, the start of an exciting time of growth and rebirth for Midtown, he said.

"Gay people love to decorate," Steelman said. "Homes were renovated outside as well as inside."

Phillip Rafshoon watched the same changes in Midtown.

An Atlantan since age 6, Rafshoon owns Outwrite Books at the corner of Piedmont Avenue and 10th Street. When he relocated there from a strip mall on Monroe in 1996, the corner—now considered the epicenter of gay Atlanta—wasn't considered prime real estate.

"There was an abandoned rental car lot on this corner," Rafshoon said of the store's new home. "This building was a closed down disco."

It marked the start of a rebirth for the area, which now includes a mix of a popular gay bar, restaurants and a massive upscale apartment complex along 10th Street, sandwiched between Piedmont Avenue and Piedmont Park.

"Gays were always the rejuvenating force in Midtown, but there was no commercial area like there is in the Castro [in San Francisco] or New York. So when we moved in here, it was really like the first big daytime walking thing on the corner. And that was only four or five years ago," Rafshoon said.

What a difference a few years can make.

Driving along Piedmont Avenue, it's easy to see new developments springing up like weeds in an unkempt garden. But this garden's anything but—high rises bloom over Midtown boasting condominiums "starting in the 300s."

"So much of the new development that's come in here was on vacant land, lots of parking lots and abandoned buildings," Rafshoon said. "They didn't replace anything, they didn't throw anyone out of their homes. So, it's a lot of new people coming in addition to what we already have."

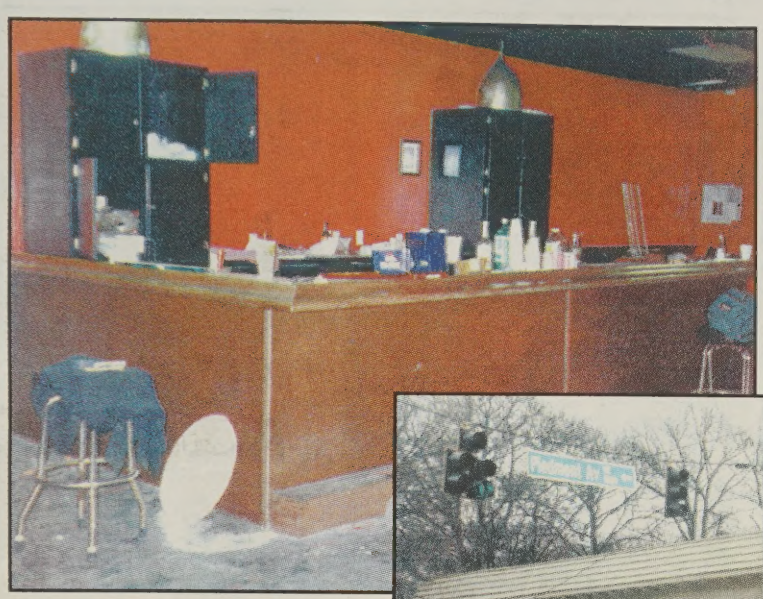
Atlanta real estate agent Chris Carroll has been selling homes for 15 years. She watched Midtown grow into the powerful and popular force in Atlanta gay culture it is today.

"Gay people have played a role greater than their numbers in new renovation," Carroll said.

As gays migrated to Midtown and renovated the area, Steelman said the cost of living immediately began increasing.

"Property taxes are a problem, there's no two ways about it. If you're going to live in the city of Atlanta, you're going to pay high property taxes," he said

Phillip Rafshoon, a longtime Atlantan and owner of Outwrite Bookstore, said rising real estate prices won't drive gays out of Midtown because the area offers gays freedoms and comforts that most other neighborhoods don't.



Outwrite Bookstore moved from its Monroe Drive location to Midtown in the mid-1990s, taking over and sprucing up the rundown former location of a bar (above). The move took place as the area, the intersection of Piedmont Avenue and 10th Street, started a turnaround, becoming a symbol of booming Midtown.

'Tax man cometh'

When property values began to soar is when gentrification began taking its toll on longtime Midtown residents. As the area stayed stagnant throughout the '70s and early '80s, property taxes stayed low as well. When the renovation started its rampage through Midtown, many people who lived in the area for many years saw a dramatic increase in their cost of living.

Now, with Midtown as popular as ever, it appears gentrification may be coming full circle, pushing out the very people who jumpstarted its rejuvenation.

Real estate agents see first hand the increase in rents. One bedroom condos in Midtown typically sell for close to $200,000, Carroll said. Homes go for as much as $400,000, if not more, she added.

The purchase prices aren't the only amounts increasing.

"As neighborhoods got cleaner, with pretty little flower beds, landlords can raise the rent," Carroll said. "What disturbs me more than anything that I see is the disappearance of rental property in Midtown. I just don't see where anybody is going to be able to live inside the perimeter who wants to pay a modest rent."

Renters can always hope luck is on their side. Carroll said rent prices fluctuate, not only from neighborhood to neighborhood, but from block to block.

"It depends on the individual landlord. Some max out their rent, others just like to have good tenants," Carroll said.

The numbers support her theory that property prices are rapidly rising.

ACCRA, a non-profit community and economic development research group, studies the cost of living in metro areas across the country. The average price estimate for a 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom, single family house in Atlanta in 1985 was just a little more than $100,000, according to ACCRA.

Today, it's more than double that.

Melody Unger, another real estate agent dealing with property in the metro Atlanta area, says it doesn't always take 10 years for prices to climb that high. She's selling condominiums in the historic Massellton Building on Midtown's south side. "Those were two bedroom, one bath, that you could buy in the $165,000 range two years ago. They're now in the $200,000 to $300,00 range," she said.

Candler Park's lesbian influx

Just as gay men moved into Midtown, lesbians found a home in Candler Park.

Linda Bryant has owned the feminist bookstore Charis Books & More on Euclid Avenue for 26 years. One of the few specialty shops in the area when she opened, Bryant said changes starting taking place when stores like Sevananda, a natural foods retailer, opened in the area.

"It was marked for me by there being a place for me to go to get something to eat by foot. And then there being shops to go to and not just bars and liquor stores," Bryant said.

Like Midtown, Bryant said Candler Park owes its second coming largely to the gays.

East Point among ATL's new hotspots,
Atlanta section, page 4
or www.sovo.com

Gay 'hoods pop up across Mid South,
Mid South section, page 1
or www.sovo.com

Gays pushed to Bywater in Big Easy,
New Orleans section, page 1
or www.sovo.com

Gay influx may squeeze out older residents

"It's a diverse area in which lesbians found a home and made a home and made it rich. There's a great deal of respect in many of the businesses and neighborhoods and walks of life for the lesbians who are a part of our community and acknowledge that lesbians are part of what makes this a great place. It's a little off beat, very diverse, in terms of race, religion, ethnicity and sexual orientation," she said.

And like Midtown, many of the same people who helped make Candler Park a growing community are also finding it hard to remain.

"I am aware that the values are going up and the folks that have been there forever are having trouble," Bryant said. "I know that there are individuals who can't afford to live here anymore or whose rents have gone up and they've had to move to other places."

Linda Bryant, Charis Books & More owner, said Candler Park owes its resurgence to the influx of gays in the neighborhood.

Gentrification backlash

As gays, pushed by escalating real estate and rental prices, search for more remote or inexpensive areas, some longtime residents of transitional neighborhoods would rather gays not come calling.

In 1998, Rev. Amos Moore, pastor at New Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, called for an end to the "white takeover" and "homosexual and lesbian takeover" of Kirkwood, a neighborhood on Atlanta's Eastside. The Baptist minister held rallies hoping to force gay men and lesbians out of the area.

"If they want to come into a heterosexual neighborhood, they need to go back into the closet," Moore said during the height of tensions in the area. "Then, our children will not be exposed to seeing men walking down the street holding hands and kissing, and women doing the same thing."

Fortunately for gays who called Kirkwood home, Moore's mission proved fruitless. The city's parks and recreation department wouldn't let him hold meetings in public buildings, and more people protested his rallies than promoted his anti-gay views.

With gay men and lesbians moving to new neighborhoods, there is also some fear that Midtown, Candler Park and other longtime gay haunts will lose their identities as social centers for gay life. Just as gentrification pushed out some of Midtown's original residents, rising rents and soaring property prices threaten the area's gay sensibility.

But Rafshoon, Outwrite's owner, doesn't agree.

"It's never been exclusively gay, as opposed to the other gay ghettos in other cities. And that's why I'm optimistic that it's still going to maintain a strong gay presence," he said.

While there may be gay-friendly straight residents attracted to Midtown's ambience, Rafshoon said he sees plenty of gay men and lesbians continue coming to the area, not only to visit, but to live.

The up side of upscale

Gentrification and rising prices aren't bad news for everyone.

People who own property in Midtown and Candler Park are selling, and seeing hefty profits. Unger, the real estate agent, said these people were the "brave visionaries" who moved back into these neighborhoods two decades ago.

Dubbed "urban pioneers" by Unger, they "saw the character there."

"Although they had a layer of dirt, they knew what was underneath was golden. When they got through with it, they had something worth preserving," she said.

If those homeowners sell their property now, Unger said, "they'll get so much more than they could've ever dreamed of getting."

The prices in Midtown and Candler Park will eventually peak—or will they?

"That's always been my thinking," Unger said. "But it just hasn't happened. Of course, it will go with the tide of the economy. I just haven't seen it happen, they just continue to go up. I feel that when all the buildings have been converted and there's not any competition, it's really going to shoot up. When there's nothing left to convert, then everybody will be competing on a level playing field."

That hasn't happened yet.

Over the last decade, rent in Atlanta has risen dramatically. In 1986, the average annual expenditure for rent in Atlanta was $1,379, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. By 1999, it jumped to $2,230.

Out of 28 large cities surveyed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 1999, Atlanta ranked 12th in amount of money spent on rent annually, but ninth in the amount spent on property owned.

That doesn't make it easier to swallow rising costs.

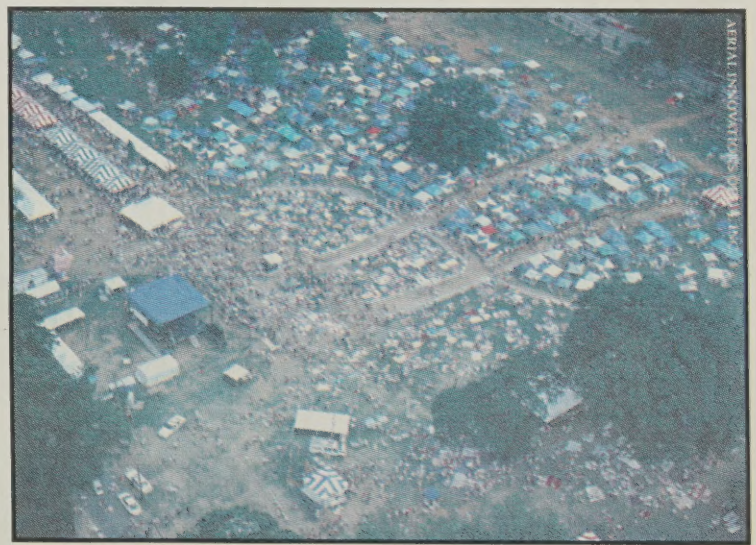
"I can see where it might get to the point when I couldn't afford to pay those taxes and I might have to move out," said Steelman, the longtime Midtown resident. "I hope it doesn't happen. But that's the way it's going. Every year there's an increase in taxes. It's upsetting."

Rafshoon also said he anticipates the rent rising on the building that houses his bookstore.

"If gay people are going to sit here and say, 'Oh, we've lost it, all the straight people are moving in, we're gonna have to leave,' then we'll lose out," he said. "But if we say we're going to stay and continue to fix it up and support those who are here, then there'll still be a pace where we can be comfortable being who we are.

"You still need a place where you can walk on the street and hold hands, and not just the last weekend in June [for Gay Pride]. There needs to be a place where you can fit and be comfortable. You still need an example of what life can be like," Rafshoon added.

Racial and anti-gay tensions flared in 1998 when Rev. Amos Moore led protests against the influx of gays into Kirkwood.



Piedmont Park, home to Atlanta's annual Gay Pride celebration, forms the heart of Midtown and the city's gay community.

Gays knock Elton over Grammy duet with Eminem

Elton John says he couldn't reject 'olive branch' from Eminem

LOS ANGELES—Sir Elton John's decision to perform a duet with controversial rapper Eminem at the Grammy Awards Feb. 21 has angered activists who consider Eminem's lyrics to be offensive and defamatory toward gays.

The duet, which had been rumored for weeks, was announced Feb. 2 by National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences President Michael Greene, and confirmed by John in an interview with the *Los Angeles Times*.

The two singers will perform the rapper's song "Stan," about an obsessed fan who gets increasingly angry when Eminem doesn't return his calls and letters and eventually kills himself and his girlfriend. John will perform the part that British singer Dido performed on the album and on "Saturday Night Live" earlier this year.

Greene said he has objections to the album, but that censorship has no place at the Grammys.

"I have issues with the lyrical content of the album, no question about that," the Grammy chief said. "But again, art has its extremities and you can't really predict how they're going to play themselves out. This is one of the extremities for sure."

John told the *Times* that the duet concept originated from Eminem, an overture the British superstar described as "an olive branch" to gays.

"I'm a big fan of his music and I said I would be delighted to," John said. "I know I'm going to get a lot of flak from various people who are going to picket the show. ... I'd rather tear down walls between people than build them up. If I thought for one minute that he was a hateful bastard, I wouldn't do it."

Among those who plan to picket the Grammys is the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, which called Eminem's participation in the event offensive and was particularly disappointed by John's decision to perform with him.

"It's hurtful," said Scott Seomin, entertainment media director for GLAAD. "It's embarrassing."

Last year, John received the organization's Vito Russo Award for his lifetime achievement in fighting homophobia.

"Elton's actions now totally violate the spirit of this award," Seomin said. "I think if Vito Russo were alive today, he would be appalled and disgusted by Elton John."

CBS executives have been supportive of booking Eminem on the show, according to network spokesperson Chris Ender, who added that "if history is a guide, controversy tends to generate higher ratings." Ender said that the Grammys are a coveted vehicle for reaching young viewers and that no advertiser backlash is expected.

Eminem is nominated for album of the year for "The Marshall Mathers LP" and in three other rap categories. The album has sold 8.1 million copies in the U.S.

Meanwhile, about 100 protesters showed up in Manchester Feb. 8 to picket the first of Eminem's four sold-out English concerts.

"We want to call attention to the fact that his lyrics have a direct affect on the lives of gay people," said Daniel Murphy, a member of the National Union of Students' gay, lesbian and bisexual campaign, which coordinated the protest.

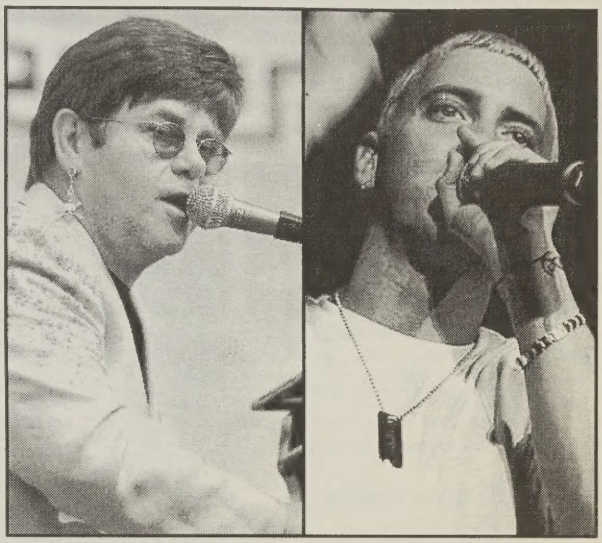
While U.S. music critics have been very supportive of Eminem's music, the British tabloids were somewhat less enamored.

Britain's biggest-selling paper the *Sun* ridiculed his stage antics, saying the rapper was more of an "M&M."

Rival tabloid the *Mirror* also derided the concert, with reviewer Brian Reade calling the concert "so false, forced and phony, so clearly taking its audience for a ride, it just left me yawning."

"This was the funniest, phoniest concert I had been to since the days of Emerson, Lake and Palmer," Reade wrote.

—From staff and wire reports



Gay celebrity Elton John has sparked controversy with his agreement to perform at the Feb. 21 Grammys with Eminem, who has been criticized for his anti-gay lyrics.

Partner of CA mauling victim may file suit

Victim of vicious dog attack was popular lesbian lacrosse coach

SAN FRANCISCO—The partner of a lesbian lacrosse coach who was mauled to death by two dogs in the hallway of her San Francisco apartment building is considering filing a wrongful death suit against the attorneys who were in possession of the dogs.

Diane Alexis Whipple, 32, was killed as she was trying to enter her apartment Jan. 26. The dogs broke away from one of their owners, attorney Marjorie Knoller, dragged Knoller down the hallway, and lunged for Whipple's throat, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported.

It took Knoller five minutes to drag the dogs back into her apartment.

The male of the pair, Bane, was put down shortly after the attack. The female, Hera, was being held by authorities.

The dogs are a breed of English Mastiff and Canary Island cattle dog called Presa Canario. They were trained by Paul Schneider, a white supremacist serving a prison term for attempted murder. Knoller and her husband, attorney Robert Noel, legally adopted Schneider three days after Whipple's death.

In interviews after Whipple's death, Noel and Knoller suggested that Whipple's perfume, or perhaps steroids she might have been taking, incited the dogs to attack her.

"My wife was covered with blood from the top of her head to her feet," said Noel, who arrived just after the attack ended. "Most of it was somebody else's [blood]."

Noel said he obtained the dogs several months ago from a family that planned to breed the dogs before giving them up.

"They weren't really being taken care of very well," he said. "They apparently had been chained out in the weather."

Whipple was a graduate of Penn State, where she was a two-time All-American lacrosse player and 1990 NCAA player of the year.

Since the memorial, Sharon Smith, Whipple's partner, has hired former prosecutor Michael Cardoza to oversee the local district attorney's investigation of the episode, the *Chronicle* reported.

Smith said Whipple was afraid of the dogs, having been bitten by one a month before her death, and would check the hallway to make sure they weren't there before opening her apartment door.

"I want to see the two of them locked up," Smith said. "This isn't a car accident, where it happens and you grieve and then move on. ... I believe they knew exactly what they had—what the dogs were capable of—and they let this happen."

Smith said she plans to sue the couple in a wrongful death claim, with any damages awarded as a result to go into a scholarship fund for women lacrosse players.

If Smith does file such a suit, she would become a test case for whether gay partners can sue for wrongful death damages, legal experts said.

"This is exactly the kind of case that we would be interested in being involved in as a vehicle for securing additional protection for individuals in lesbian and gay relationships," Kathryn Kendell, head of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, told Law.com.

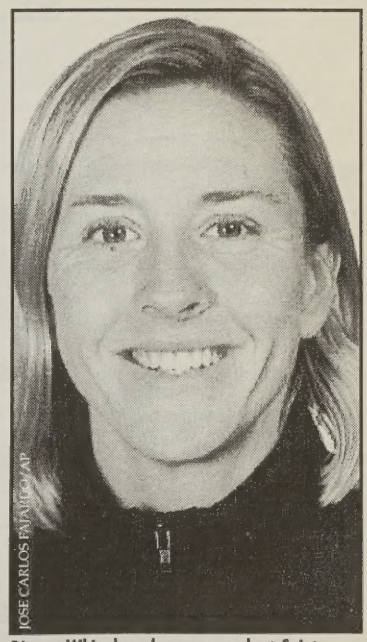
The California Code of Civil Procedure allows spouses, descendents and immediate family members to sue for wrongful death, but specifically excludes gay partners.

In a related matter, legislation introduced in December by California Assemblywoman Carole Migden would allow surviving domestic partners to recover wrongful death and emotional distress damages.

But Kendell said that may not be necessary.

"It is a particular unfairness to, on one hand, deny lesbian and gay partners the right to bring a wrongful death action simply because we are not legally married, while at the same time prohibiting us from being able to marry," Kendell said.

—From staff and wire reports



JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO/AP

Dianne Whipple, a lacrosse coach at Saint Mary's College in San Francisco, was killed Jan. 26. Her lesbian partner is considering a wrongful death suit.

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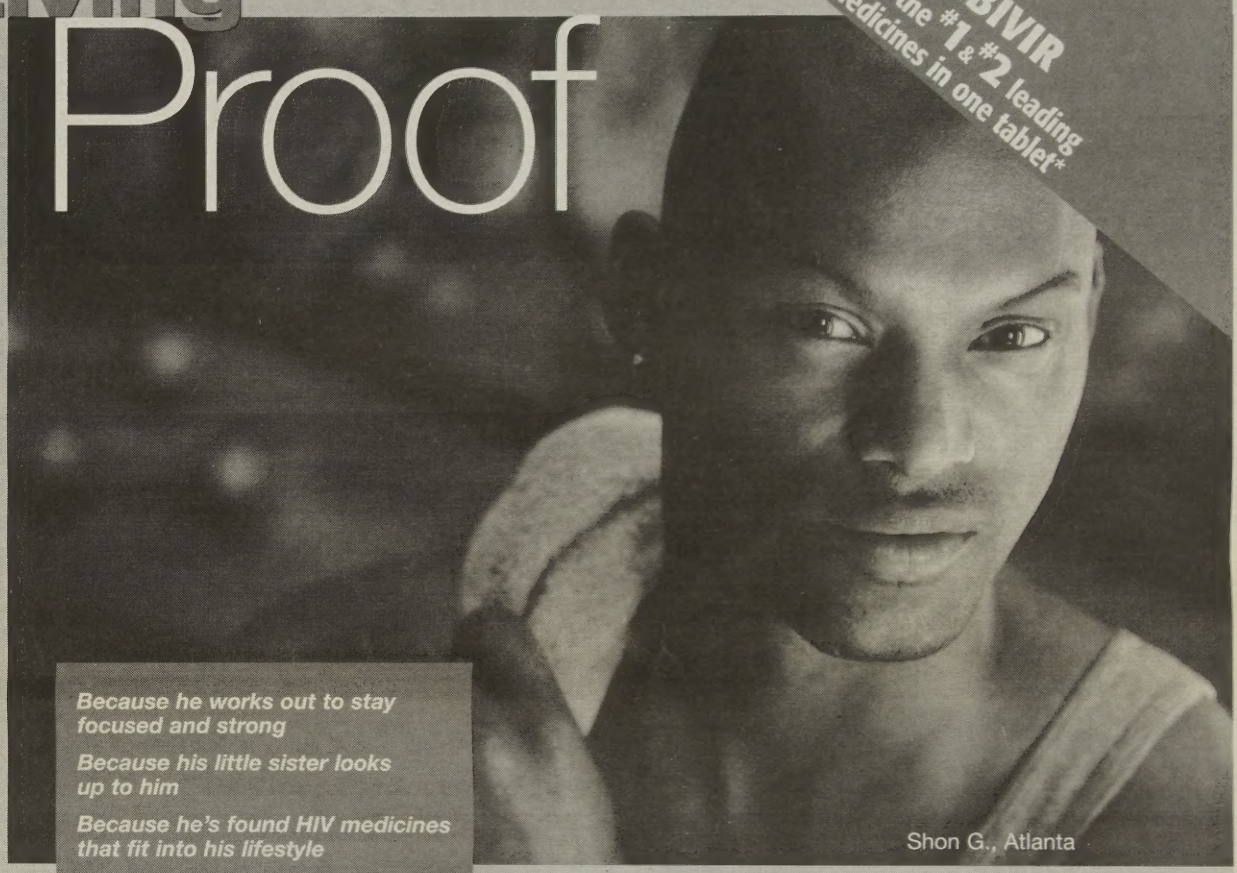

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SAFETY INFORMATION

- Make sure to see your doctor regularly because serious side effects can occur, such as muscle damage and a decrease in red and white blood cells
- A buildup of acid in the blood and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been seen
- The most frequent side effects are headache, upset stomach, malaise or fatigue, and runny nose
- Low risk of fat wasting, tingling or burning in the hands and feet, or problems with the pancreas

*Scott-Levin, Source Prescription Audit (retail pharmacies), January to June 2000.
† Roche Amplicor HIV-1 MONITOR® Test.

CALL 1-800-761-3934 for information or visit our Web site at www.TreatHIV.com

Glaxo Wellcome HIV Division

Please see Brief Summary for COMBIVIR on the adjacent page.

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BRIEF SUMMARY

COMBIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)

The following is a brief summary only; see full prescribing information for complete product information.

WARNING: ZIDOVUDINE, ONE OF THE TWO ACTIVE INGREDIENTS IN COMBIVIR, HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH HEMATOLOGIC TOXICITY INCLUDING NEUTROPENIA AND SEVERE ANEMIA, PARTICULARLY IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED HIV DISEASE (SEE WARNINGS). PROLONGED USE OF ZIDOVUDINE HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH SYMPTOMATIC MYOPATHY.

LACTIC ACIDOSIS AND SEVERE HEPATOMEGALY WITH STEATOSIS, INCLUDING FATAL CASES, HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THE USE OF NUCLEOSIDE ANALOGUES ALONE OR IN COMBINATION, INCLUDING LAMIVUDINE, ZIDOVUDINE, AND OTHER ANTIRETROVIRALS (SEE WARNINGS).

INDICATIONS AND USAGE: COMBIVIR in combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV infection.

Description of Clinical Studies: ***COMBIVIR:*** There have been no clinical trials conducted with COMBIVIR. See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY for information about bioequivalence. One COMBIVIR Tablet given twice a day is an alternative regimen to EPIVIR Tablets 150 mg twice a day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day in divided doses.

Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine: The NUCB3007 (CAESAR) study was conducted using EPIVIR 150-mg Tablets (150 mg b.i.d.) and RETROVIR 100-mg Capsules (2 x 100 mg t.i.d.). CAESAR was a multicenter, double-blind, placebo-controlled study comparing continued current therapy [zidovudine alone (62% of patients) or zidovudine with didanosine or zalcitabine (38% of patients)] to the addition of EPIVIR or EPIVIR plus an investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor, randomized 1:2:1. A total of 1816 HIV-infected adults with 25 to 250 (median 122) CD4 cells/mm³ at baseline were enrolled: median age was 36 years, 87% were male, 84% were nucleoside-experienced, and 16% were therapy-naive. The median duration on study was 12 months. Results are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1: Number of Patients (%) With At Least 1 HIV Disease-Progression Event or Death

Endpoint	Current Therapy (n = 460)	EPIVIR plus Current Therapy (n = 896)	EPIVIR plus a NNRTI* plus Current Therapy (n = 460)
HIV progression or death	90 (19.6%)	86 (9.6%)	41 (8.9%)
Death	27 (5.9%)	23 (2.6%)	14 (3.0%)

*An investigational non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor not approved in the United States.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: COMBIVIR Tablets are contraindicated in patients with previously demonstrated clinically significant hypersensitivity to any of the components of the product.

WARNINGS: COMBIVIR is a fixed-dose combination of lamivudine and zidovudine. Ordinarily, COMBIVIR should not be administered concomitantly with either lamivudine or zidovudine.

The complete prescribing information for all agents being considered for use with COMBIVIR should be consulted before combination therapy with COMBIVIR is initiated.

Bone Marrow Suppression: COMBIVIR should be used with caution in patients who have bone marrow compromise evidenced by granulocyte count <1000 cells/mm³ or hemoglobin <9.5 g/dL (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Frequent blood counts are strongly recommended in patients with advanced HIV disease who are treated with COMBIVIR. For HIV-infected individuals and patients with asymptomatic or early HIV disease, periodic blood counts are recommended.

Lactic Acidosis/Severe Hepatomegaly with Steatosis: Lactic acidosis and severe hepatomegaly with steatosis, including fatal cases, have been reported with the use of nucleoside analogues alone or in combination, including lamivudine, zidovudine, and other antiretrovirals. A majority of these cases have been in women. Obesity and prolonged nucleoside exposure may be risk factors. Particular caution should be exercised when administering COMBIVIR to any patient with known risk factors for liver disease; however, cases have also been reported in patients with no known risk factors. Treatment with COMBIVIR should be suspended in any patient who develops clinical or laboratory findings suggestive of lactic acidosis or pronounced hepatotoxicity (which may include hepatomegaly and steatosis even in the absence of marked transaminase elevations).

Myopathy: *Myopathy and myositis, with pathological changes similar to that produced by HIV disease, have been associated with prolonged use of zidovudine, and therefore may occur with therapy with COMBIVIR.*

PRECAUTIONS:

Patients With HIV and Hepatitis B Virus Coinfection: In clinical trials and postmarketing experience, some patients with HIV infection who have chronic liver disease due to hepatitis B virus infection experienced clinical or laboratory evidence of recurrent hepatitis upon discontinuation of lamivudine. Consequences may be more severe in patients with decompensated liver disease.

Patients With Impaired Renal Function: Reduction of the dosages of lamivudine and zidovudine is recommended for patients with impaired renal function. Patients with creatinine clearance ≤50 mL/min should not receive COMBIVIR.

Information for Patients: COMBIVIR is not a cure for HIV infection and patients may continue to experience illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised that the use of COMBIVIR has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination. Patients should be informed that the major toxicities of COMBIVIR are neutropenia and/or anemia. They should be told of the extreme importance of having their blood counts followed closely while on therapy, especially for patients with advanced HIV disease. Patients should be advised of the importance of taking COMBIVIR as it is prescribed.

Drug Interactions: Coadministration of ganciclovir, interferon-alpha, and other bone marrow suppressive or cytotoxic agents may increase the hematologic toxicity of zidovudine (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY section of full prescribing information).

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, and Impairment of Fertility: ***Carcinogenicity:***

Lamivudine: Lamivudine long-term carcinogenicity studies in mice and rats showed no evidence of carcinogenic potential at exposures up to 10 times (mice) and 58 times (rats) those observed in humans at the recommended therapeutic dose.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine was administered orally at 3 dosage levels to separate groups of mice and rats (60 females and 60 males in each group). Initial single daily doses were 30, 60, and 120 mg/kg per day in mice and 80, 220, and 600 mg/kg per day in rats. The doses in mice were reduced to 20, 30, and 40 mg/kg per day after day 90 because of treatment-related anemia, whereas in rats only the high dose was reduced to 450 mg/kg per day on day 91 and then to 300 mg/kg per day on day 279.

In mice, 7 late-appearing (after 19 months) vaginal neoplasms (5 nonmetastasizing squamous cell carcinomas, 1 squamous cell papilloma, and 1 squamous polyp) occurred in animals given the highest dose. One late-appearing squamous cell papilloma occurred in the vagina of a middle-dose animal. No vaginal tumors were found at the lowest dose.

In rats, 2 late-appearing (after 20 months), nonmetastasizing vaginal squamous cell carcinomas occurred in animals given the highest dose. No vaginal tumors occurred at the low or middle dose in rats. No other drug-related tumors were observed in either sex of either species.

At doses that produced tumors in mice and rats, the estimated drug exposure (as measured by AUC) was approximately 3 times (mouse) and 24 times (rat) the estimated human exposure at the recommended therapeutic dose of 100 mg every 4 hours.

Two transplacental carcinogenicity studies were conducted in mice. One study administered zidovudine at doses of 20 mg/kg per day or 40 mg/kg per day from gestation day 10 through parturition and lactation with dosing continuing in offspring for 24 months postnatally. The doses of zidovudine employed in this study produced zidovudine exposures approximately 3 times the estimated human exposure at recommended doses. After 24 months, at the highest dose, an increase in incidence of vaginal tumors was noted with no increase in tumors in the liver or lung or any other organ in either gender. These findings are consistent with results of the standard oral carcinogenicity study in mice, as described earlier. A second study administered zidovudine at maximum tolerated doses of 12.5 mg/day or 25 mg/day (~1000 mg/kg nonpregnant body weight or ~450 mg/kg of term body weight) to pregnant mice from days 12 through 18 of gestation. There was an increase in the number of tumors in the lung, liver, and female reproductive tracts in the offspring of mice receiving the higher dose level of zidovudine.

It is not known how predictive the results of rodent carcinogenicity studies may be for humans.

Mutagenicity: Lamivudine: Lamivudine was negative in a microbial mutagenicity screen, in an in vitro cell transformation assay, in a rat micronucleus test, in a rat bone marrow cytogenetic assay, and in an assay for unscheduled DNA synthesis in rat liver. It was mutagenic in a L5178Y/TK$^{+/-}$ mouse lymphoma assay and clastogenic in a cytogenetic assay using cultured human lymphocytes.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine was mutagenic in a L5178Y/TK$^{+/-}$ mouse lymphoma assay, positive in an in vitro cell transformation assay, clastogenic in a cytogenetic assay using cultured human lymphocytes, and positive in mouse and rat micronucleus tests after repeated doses. It was negative in a cytogenetic study in rats given a single dose.

Impairment of Fertility: Lamivudine: In a study of reproductive performance, lamivudine, administered to male and female rats at doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, revealed no evidence of impaired fertility (judged by conception rates) and no effect on the survival, growth, and development to weaning of the offspring.

Zidovudine: Zidovudine, administered to male and female rats at doses up to 7 times the usual adult dose based on body surface area considerations, had no effect on fertility judged by conception rates.

Pregnancy: Pregnancy Category C.

COMBIVIR: There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of COMBIVIR in pregnant women. Reproduction studies with lamivudine and zidovudine have been performed in animals (see Lamivudine and Zidovudine sections below). COMBIVIR should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefits outweigh the risks.

COMBIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine/zidovudine tablets)

Lamivudine: Reproduction studies with orally administered lamivudine have been performed in rats and rabbits at 130 and 60 times, respectively, the usual adult dose (based on relative body surface area) and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. Some evidence of early embryolethality was seen in the rabbit at doses similar to those produced by the usual adult dose and higher, but there was no indication of this effect in the rat at orally administered doses up to 130 times the usual adult dose. Studies in pregnant rats and rabbits showed that lamivudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta.

Zidovudine: Reproduction studies with orally administered zidovudine in the rat and in the rabbit at doses up to 500 mg/kg per day revealed no evidence of teratogenicity with zidovudine. Zidovudine treatment resulted in embryo/fetal toxicity as evidenced by an increase in the incidence of fetal resorptions in rats given 150 or 450 mg/kg per day and rabbits given 500 mg/kg per day. The doses used in the teratology studies resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations (after one-half of the daily dose) in rats 66 to 226 times, and in rabbits 12 to 87 times, mean steady-state peak human plasma concentrations (after one-sixth of the daily dose) achieved with the recommended daily dose (100 mg every 4 hours). In an additional teratology study in rats, a dose of 3000 mg/kg per day (very near the oral median lethal dose in rats of 3683 mg/kg) caused marked maternal toxicity and an increase in the incidence of fetal malformations. This dose resulted in peak zidovudine plasma concentrations 350 times peak human plasma concentrations. No evidence of teratogenicity was seen in this experiment at doses of 600 mg/kg per day or less. Two rodent carcinogenicity studies were conducted (see Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility).

Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: To monitor maternal-fetal outcomes of pregnant women exposed to COMBIVIR and other antiretroviral agents, an Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry has been established. Physicians are encouraged to register patients by calling 1-800-258-4263.

Nursing Mothers: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that HIV-infected mothers not breastfeed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

COMBIVIR: Zidovudine is excreted in breast milk (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY: Pharmacokinetics: Nursing Mothers subsection of full prescribing information); however, no data are available on COMBIVIR or lamivudine. Therefore, there is a potential for adverse effects in nursing infants. **Mothers should be instructed not to breastfeed if they are receiving COMBIVIR.**

Pediatric Use: COMBIVIR should not be administered to pediatric patients less than 12 years of age because it is a fixed-dose combination that cannot be adjusted for this patient population.

Geriatric Use: Clinical studies of COMBIVIR did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy. COMBIVIR is not recommended for patients with impaired renal function (i.e., creatinine clearance ≤50 mL/min; see PRECAUTIONS: Patients with Impaired Renal Function and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

Lamivudine Plus Zidovudine Administered As Separate Formulations: In 4 randomized, controlled trials of EPIVIR 300 mg per day plus RETROVIR 600 mg per day, the following selected clinical and laboratory adverse events were observed (see Tables 2 and 3).

Table 2: Selected Clinical Adverse Events (≥5% Frequency) in 4 Controlled Clinical Trials With EPIVIR 300 mg/day and RETROVIR 600 mg/day

Adverse Event		EPIVIR plus RETROVIR (n = 251)
Body as a whole	Headache	35%
	Malaise & fatigue	27%
	Fever or chills	10%
Digestive	Nausea	33%
	Diarrhea	18%
	Nausea & vomiting	13%
	Anorexia and/or decreased appetite	10%
	Abdominal pain	9%
	Abdominal cramps	6%
	Dyspepsia	5%
Nervous system	Neuropathy	12%
	Insomnia & other sleep disorders	11%
	Dizziness	10%
	Depressive disorders	9%
Respiratory	Nasal signs & symptoms	20%
	Cough	18%
Skin	Skin rashes	9%
Musculoskeletal	Musculoskeletal pain	12%
	Myalgia	8%
	Arthralgia	5%

Pancreatitis was observed in 3 of the 656 adult patients (<0.5%) who received EPIVIR in controlled clinical trials. Selected laboratory abnormalities observed during therapy are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Frequencies of Selected Laboratory Abnormalities Among Adults in 4 Controlled Clinical Trials of EPIVIR 300 mg/day plus RETROVIR 600 mg/day*

Test (Abnormal Level)	EPIVIR plus RETROVIR % (n)
Neutropenia (ANC<750/mm³)	7.2% (237)
Anemia (Hgb<8.0 g/dL)	2.9% (241)
Thrombocytopenia (platelets<50,000/mm³)	0.4% (240)
ALT (>5.0 x ULN)	3.7% (241)
AST (>5.0 x ULN)	1.7% (241)
Bilirubin (>2.5 x ULN)	0.8% (241)
Amylase (>2.0 x ULN)	4.2% (72)

ULN = Upper limit of normal.
ANC = Absolute neutrophil count.
n = Number of patients assessed.
*Frequencies of these laboratory abnormalities were higher in patients with mild laboratory abnormalities at baseline.

Observed During Clinical Practice: In addition to adverse events reported from clinical trials, the following events have been identified during post-approval use of EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be made. These events have been chosen for inclusion due to a combination of their seriousness, frequency of reporting, or potential causal connection to EPIVIR and/or RETROVIR:

Endocrine and Metabolic: Hyperglycemia.
General: Sensitization reactions (including anaphylaxis), vasculitis.
Hepatobiliary Tract and Pancreas: Lactic acidosis and hepatic steatosis (see WARNINGS), pancreatitis.
Musculoskeletal: Muscle weakness, CPK elevation, rhabdomyolysis.
Nervous: Seizures.
Skin: Alopecia, erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, urticaria.

OVERDOSAGE:

COMBIVIR: There is no known antidote for COMBIVIR.

Lamivudine: One case of an adult ingesting 6 grams of lamivudine was reported; there were no clinical signs or symptoms noted and hematologic tests remained normal. It is not known whether lamivudine can be removed by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

Zidovudine: Acute overdoses of zidovudine have been reported in pediatric patients and adults. These involved exposures up to 50 grams. The only consistent findings were nausea and vomiting. Other reported occurrences included headache, dizziness, drowsiness, lethargy, confusion, and 1 report of a grand mal seizure. Hematologic changes were transient. All patients recovered. Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis appear to have a negligible effect on the removal of zidovudine while elimination of its primary metabolite, GZDV, is enhanced.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION: The recommended oral dose of COMBIVIR for adults and adolescents (at least 12 years of age) is 1 tablet (containing 150 mg of lamivudine and 300 mg of zidovudine) twice daily.

Dose Adjustment: Because it is a fixed-dose combination, COMBIVIR should not be prescribed for patients requiring dosage adjustment such as those with reduced renal function (creatinine clearance ≤50 mL/min) or those experiencing dose-limiting adverse events.

GlaxoWellcome

Glaxo Wellcome Inc.
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Lamivudine is manufactured under agreement from BioChem Pharma Inc.
Laval, Quebec, Canada

US Patent Nos. 5,047,407; 4,818,538; 4,828,838; 4,724,232; 4,833,130; 4,837,208; 5,859,021 and 5,905,082

October 2000/RL-874

Reference: 1. Hammer SM, Squires KE, Hughes MD, et al. A controlled trial of two nucleoside analogues plus indinavir in persons with human immunodeficiency virus infection and CD4 cell counts of 200 per cubic millimeter or less. *N Engl J Med.* 1997;337:725-733.

Gays want meeting with Bush's faith–based office

Pro-gay groups worry granting federal money to religious-based social service organizations could institutionalize homophobia

by ERIC ERICKSON

A coalition of pro-gay religious and secular groups is calling for a meeting with John DiIulio, the University of Pennsylvania professor tapped to head the new White House Office of Faith-based & Community Initiatives.

Gay rights advocates and other critics of the recently announced office say they fear it will violate the Constitution's guarantee of separation of church and state, and put gay men and lesbians at risk of discriminatory treatment from religious groups that oppose homosexuality.

The new White House office, and similar offices created by Bush in five government departments, topped the agenda last week when the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force and Equal Partners in Faith convened the semi-annual meeting of the National Religious Leadership Roundtable, an interfaith network of 40 religious leaders who advocate for pro-gay religious perspectives.

The NRLR concluded its meeting with calls for a discussion with the man who will head the new faith-based office, and a message for the new president.

"We want Bush to know there are progressive people of faith in the LGBT community and that our voices are going to be heard by media and society," said Rev. Steven Baines, executive coordinator of Equal Partners in Faith.

The new offices will promote competition for $10 billion in federal grants, previously unavailable to religious organizations. Under Bush's proposal, any religious group providing social services may apply for federal funding.

"If I'm homeless," asked NGLTF spokesperson David Elliot, "and I go to a soup kitchen, am I going to have to pray in order to be fed or am I going to be prayed over? ... We have very fundamental concerns that his proposal poses a threat to both GLBT social service workers and social service recipients.".

Elliot said NGLTF and other gay organizations fear these religious groups could use federal money to promote their own conservative agenda. "It's an attack on our community," he said. "I've come not to expect much from this administration. The important thing to keep in mind is that if these proposals go through we will face discrimination."

Bush has insisted that bias will not occur his proposal. While religious groups will be able to keep their religious symbols, character and internal governing structure during and after the grant application process, they cannot use the funds for actual worship, religious education or conversion. In fact, under the plan, any congregation, including primarily gay congregations like Metropolitan Community Churches, would be eligible for funding.

Yet Elliot said he remains skeptical. "Do you really think the Bush administration is going to favor our churches over the conservative Baptist churches?" he asked.

Baines said he shares those concerns. "We know from everything we see the Bush administration has done, [the funds are] going to go to groups that support his conservative theological viewpoints," he said.

Gay activists say they want to meet with John Dilulio, tapped to head the new White House Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives.

Because many Americans doubt the quality of services currently available from government social service agencies, Bush has said he wants money to go to local religious group and civic organizations. Bush said these groups can use contacts in their own community to better work with needy people.

Baines said he recognizes religious groups can administer quality services, and he would be in favor of funding them with federal dollars, but only if they set up separate entities to deliver services.

The Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is scheduled to open Feb. 20.

ACTION!info

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Washington, DC 20500
phone: 202-456-1414
e-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

Equal Partners in Faith
2026 P St. NW Suite 3
Washington D.C. 20036-5914
phone: 202-332-6483
e-mail: uuawo@aol.com

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force
1700 Kalorama Rd. NW
Washington D.C. 20009
phone: 202-332-6483

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EDITORIAL

Hotlines provide lifelines for gays

by MELINDA SHELTON

NEW ORLEANS—For many of us visible in the gay community, coming to terms with our sexual orientation and its myriad personal and social issues is something talked about in the past tense.

Undeniably, being out also places us at risk. We are visible targets for homophobes. Our families and associates may—and often do—reject us. Employers can exercise silent discrimination, without openly having to say we're denied a promotion or a raise because we're gay.

But by coming out, we have chosen to confront our fears and conquer as many as possible. Being out builds self-esteem and forges alliances and friendships.

Coming out of the closet and going public about such an intimate, private aspect of one's self takes incredible courage.

Imagine a 15-year-old in Tupelo, Miss., struggling with his sexual orientation. Or a 20-year-old lesbian in Baton Rouge who was raped at a fraternity party. Or a woman or man in Atlanta, who has gender identity issues, but doesn't know where to turn for information.

For countless people like these, information and support are virtual lifelines for survival.

Four years ago, a group of community activists in New York decided to establish a national hotline to help people with sexual orientation or gender identity issues.

The Gay & Lesbian National Hotline first opened a volunteer-run office in New York, and today there is a second office in San Francisco.

To say there is a demand for the hotline is an understatement: The hotline receives more than 100,000 calls every year, primarily from troubled teens and young adults.

> To say there is a demand for the Gay & Lesbian National Hotline is an understatement: It receives more than 100,000 calls every year, primarily from troubled teens and young adults.

The GLNH is a volunteer-based program with 75 volunteers, who work an average of six to eight hours a month at either of the two offices, said Brad Becker, GLNH's executive director. Its annual $75,000 budget largely comes from private donations and foundation grants, and the bulk of the money is used to pay the telephone bills and office rent.

Volunteers are trained to provide crisis intervention and make referrals from the organization's national database of more than 18,000 listings.

Counselors also provide health information, particularly on ways to avoid transmitting or contracting sexually transmitted diseases and HIV.

For many of the callers, speaking to a GLNH volunteer is the first time they've ever had personal contact with someone from the gay community.

Comforting words can mean the difference between life and death, as those of us who have done crisis line work, or who have made calls ourselves, know.

For many of the callers, it's also the first time they have ever been told their homosexual feelings are normal and are not to be feared. This validation, Becker said, is essential to building strong self-esteem.

"For a young person in a rural, isolated town, or whose family makes gay jokes, or whose teacher makes homophobic comments, or who goes to church and has to listen to anti-gay fire and brimstone preaching—actually talking to someone who's gay means they no longer feel like they're alone," Becker said.

Counselors do not give advice on what the person should do, but rather ask questions about what the person is feeling, what she or he wants to do, and how she or he thinks can solve their own problems, Becker said.

For many callers, simply talking to someone, expressing themselves about their sexual orientation and related issues and problems is an important first step.

"Some of the callers are too nervous to talk to anyone else but us," Becker said, "and they're not ready to take any step at all other than talking. It's our job to let them know what's there for them when they're ready."

Many of the callers, particularly the young ones, are reluctant to discuss their sexual activities, so volunteers are trained to broach the subject during the course of the conversation.

"The truth is, teens are the fastest-growing age group with new HIV infections, but a 15-year-old doesn't think he'll catch it by having sex with another 15-year-old," Becker said.

Education is yet another lifeline the counselors throw.

The GLNH database contains information on community centers and hotlines, doctors, lawyers, counselors, service agencies, health resources, gay-friendly businesses and gay-supportive groups in cities and communities across the nation.

The list, Becker says, is the largest of its kind in the world.

For the countless thousands of those who are invisible, the hotline—and others like it—provides a vital link to our community, and a greater sense of self-acceptance.

Melinda Shelton is the New Orleans & the Gulf Coast editor of Southern Voice. *She can be reached at mshelton@sovo.com.*

INFO

Gay & Lesbian National Hotline
phone: 1-888-843-4564
Mon.-Fri., 4 p.m.-midnight (Eastern Time)
Saturday, noon-5 p.m. (ET)
e-mail: glnh@glnh.org
Web site: www.glnh.org

Gay and lesbian helplines operate throughout the South, including:

Atlanta: 404-523-7500
Birmingham, Ala.: 205-326-8600
New Orleans: 504-833-1500
Memphis, Tenn.: 901-324-GAYS
Nashville, Tenn.: 615-297-0008

Click and tell

'Stan' by Eminem?

Popular rapper Eminem has been roundly criticized for his misogynist and anti-gay lyrics. Despite the controversy, he could receive up to four Grammys during the Feb. 21 awards show on CBS. Now Elton John, singer and gay icon, has accepted an invitation to perform the rapper's song 'Stan' in a duet with Eminem during the show. Should gay men and lesbians even care?

- Gay rights groups like GLAAD were right to express 'disgust' with Elton.
- Elton should snap Eminem's 'olive branch' in two and feed it back to the repulsive rapper, washing it down with a dry Merlot.
- Eminem's lyrics have a direct effect on the lives of gays and he should be banned from the awards show.
- I'm gay, Eminem is hot, and I don't care what he raps about.

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LETTERS

Dump the Dems, GOP, make the switch

To the Editor:

Calm yourselves dear gentle voters, you had alternative choices. But did you study, and obtain the political enlightenment to cast an intelligent vote or did you just vote against the one you don't like? How original.

We've talked about issues concerning personal responsibility, abortion, separation of church/state, affirmative action, domestic partner benefits, oppressed minorities and the good economy.

If you are a member of an "oppressed" minority, then how can you keep voting for the very demopublicans who continue to oppress you? Since gaining my new political enlightenment by studying and joining the Libertarian Party—I used to be a liberal democrat, who voted twice for Bill Clinton—I am constantly amazed by the loyalty of the gay community, which thinks that our former president and company did them any favors.

If you're really a "disgusted demopublican," then I implore you to seek out the Libertarians.

F. Caudle
Atlanta

Avoid one-dimensional pols in upcoming race

To the Editor:

Council member Cathy Woolard was asked to speak to Georgia Log Cabin Republican members because the upcoming city elections bring great opportunities for Atlanta. Local politics have been tainted by recent revelations of fiscal mismanagement and unethical practices by current elected city officials.

Your coverage of this event ("Gay candidate's City Council president bid gains support," Atlanta section, Feb. 8) glances over critical issues discussed, choosing instead to focus four paragraphs on the fact that no questions were asked by Log Cabin members regarding Woolard's position on Atlanta bar closings.

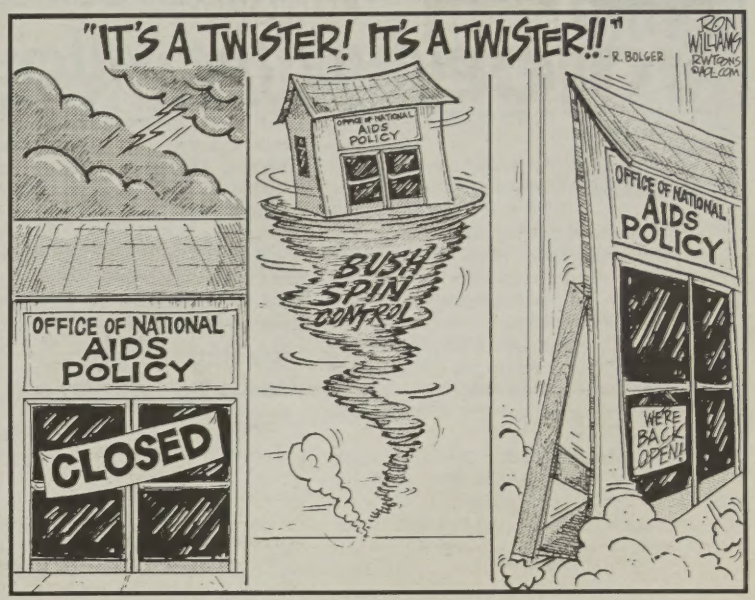
You have said it is Atlanta's gay bars that are "the goose that laid Atlanta's high-tech golden egg." We believe this "golden egg" was created by the hard working residents and business owners who have transformed a decaying Midtown into an extremely desirable location to live and work.

It is this belief that will lead Log Cabin to support city leaders who will govern responsibly, work for safer communities by fostering a healthier police department, and support social programs that produce results.

An individual or community that is one dimensional on issues loses credibility and, in the long run, may loose more than they gain. This fall, Georgia Log Cabin encourages Atlanta residents to vote for candidates who will take on issues that will continue to make this city an even better place.

Marc Yeager
Vice president, public relations
Georgia Log Cabin Republicans

Editor's note: The article focused on several aspects, including a recent endorsement of Woolard's campaign, her position on the controversial issue of bar closing hours before the City Council, and seven paragraphs about her recent appearance before Log Cabin.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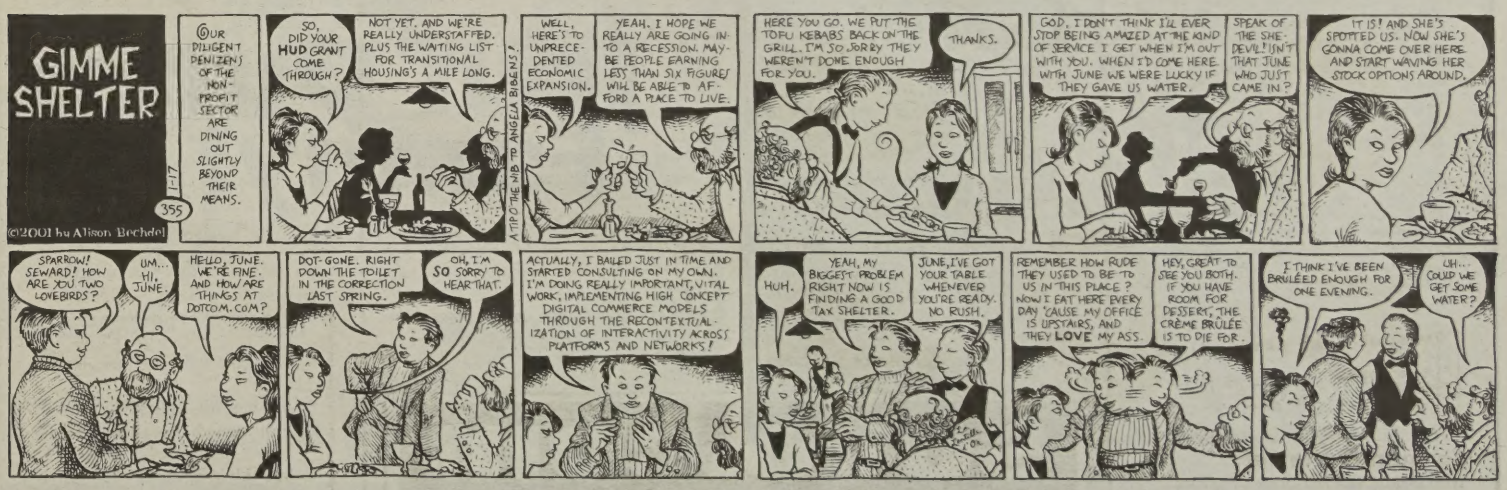
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OUR DILIGENT PENIZENS OF THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR ARE DINING OUT SLIGHTLY BEYOND THEIR MEANS.
1:17
355
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SO, DID YOUR HUD GRANT COME THROUGH?
NOT YET. AND WE'RE REALLY UNDERSTAFFED. PLUS THE WAITING LIST FOR TRANSITIONAL HOUSING'S A MILE LONG.
WELL, HERE'S TO UNPRECEDENTED ECONOMIC EXPANSION.
YEAH. I HOPE WE REALLY ARE GOING INTO A RECESSION. MAYBE PEOPLE EARNING LESS THAN SIX FIGURES WILL BE ABLE TO AFFORD A PLACE TO LIVE.
A TIP OF THE HAT TO ANGELA BIGGS?
HERE YOU GO. WE PUT THE TOFU KEBABS BACK ON THE GRILL. I'M SO SORRY THEY WEREN'T DONE ENOUGH FOR YOU.
THANKS.
GOD, I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER STOP BEING AMAZED AT THE KIND OF SERVICE I GET WHEN I'M OUT WITH YOU. WHEN I'D COME HERE WITH JUNE WE WERE LUCKY IF THEY GAVE US WATER.
SPEAK OF THE SHE-DEVIL! ISN'T THAT JUNE WHO JUST CAME IN?
IT IS! AND SHE'S SPOTTED US. NOW SHE'S GONNA COME OVER HERE AND START WAVING HER STOCK OPTIONS AROUND.
SPARROW! SEWARD! HOW ARE YOU TWO LOVEBIRDS?
UM... HI, JUNE.
HELLO, JUNE. WE'RE FINE. AND HOW ARE THINGS AT DOTCOM.COM?
DOT-GONE. RIGHT DOWN THE TOILET IN THE CORRECTION LAST SPRING.
OH, I'M SO SORRY TO HEAR THAT.
ACTUALLY, I BAILED JUST IN TIME AND STARTED CONSULTING ON MY OWN. I'M DOING REALLY IMPORTANT, VITAL WORK, IMPLEMENTING HIGH CONCEPT DIGITAL COMMERCE MODELS THROUGH THE RECONTEXTUALIZATION OF INTERACTIVITY ACROSS PLATFORMS AND NETWORKS!
HUH.
YEAH, MY BIGGEST PROBLEM RIGHT NOW IS FINDING A GOOD TAX SHELTER.
JUNE, I'VE GOT YOUR TABLE WHENEVER YOU'RE READY. NO RUSH.
REMEMBER HOW RUDE THEY USED TO BE TO US IN THIS PLACE? NOW I EAT HERE EVERY DAY 'CAUSE MY OFFICE IS UPSTAIRS, AND THEY LOVE MY ASS.
HEY, GREAT TO SEE YOU BOTH. IF YOU HAVE ROOM FOR DESSERT, THE CRÈME BRÛLÉE IS TO DIE FOR.
I THINK I'VE BEEN BRÛLÉED ENOUGH FOR ONE EVENING.
UH... COULD WE GET SOME WATER?

SLOUCHING THROUGH GOMORRAH

Avoiding the Valentine's Day rite of cringing

by MICHAEL ALVEAR

A lot of my single friends see Valentine's Day the way the Giants saw Super Bowl Sunday last month: a day that simply wasn't meant for them.

Some of my friends have been trying for years to find the right person. Others have never been in long-term relationships, even though they're in their mid-to-late 30s.

Nothing can make you feel more like love's orphan than Valentine's Day. It's the date when you are reminded you have no date.

It all started back in 269 A.D. when the Roman Emperor Claudius II waged bloody and unnecessary wars. He had a tough time getting soldiers to join his military forays and he was convinced it was because Roman men did not want to leave their girlfriends and wives (and as many historians conveniently omit, their boyfriends). So he forbid all marriages and engagements. It was not for nothing that he was known as "Claudius the Cruel."

But there was a certain priest named Valentine who conducted marriages anyway. He was caught, thrown in jail and died there on Feb. 14. He left a note to the jailer's daughter, who had become his romantic love. He signed it "From Your Valentine."

Claudius stood in the way of love, much like my friends stand in the way of theirs. Gay men have developed inner emperors, blocking love from entering their lives. We believe we're not in romantic relationships because we haven't met the right guy or because there aren't a lot of good men out there. But the real reason we're not in relationships is because we've adopted the emperor's consciousness of jailing love.

The cause of our inability to forge deep and abiding relationships can be summed up in two words: I, Claudius.

I came face to face with my own emperor about seven years ago. On Valentine's Day, no less. I had been dating a guy named Brad, a beautiful, accomplished guy, for about four or five months. But I was also dating other guys, keeping my options open.

After a few months of me Peter Panning my way out of serious conversations, Brad had reached the end of the line. "I don't want to date other people," he said, "And I especially don't want to be part of your stable."

"But you're the lead horse in my stable," I told him jokingly. "Doesn't that say how much I like you?"

I don't recommend that kind of response. Even if you're kidding, it buys you nothing but a dial tone.

When I called him back to apologize, he said it was time for me to make a decision. "We're either a couple," he said, "or a couple of friends."

> Maybe there isn't *the one*. Maybe you meet somebody whose raw materials complement your raw materials and you build *the one* together.

It was agonizing for me, but I said no. I said I couldn't, because I couldn't genuinely and sincerely say he was *the one*.

At that point I had never been in a long-term relationship, though it was something I pined for constantly. As I hung up the phone, I realized I was giving up this good-looking, adorable guy who challenged me and made me laugh and all because of some vague feeling that he wasn't *the one*.

I, Claudius.

A few weeks later it was Valentine's Day. I called him in the morning and asked him out to dinner that night.

"As a friend or a boyfriend?" he asked.

It was at that moment that I got rid of the emperor inside me.

Because it occurred to me that this wasn't my first "Brad." How many times was I going to meet great guys and not take a chance at building a relationship? How many Brads had I let slip away because I was waiting for love to "sweep me away?"

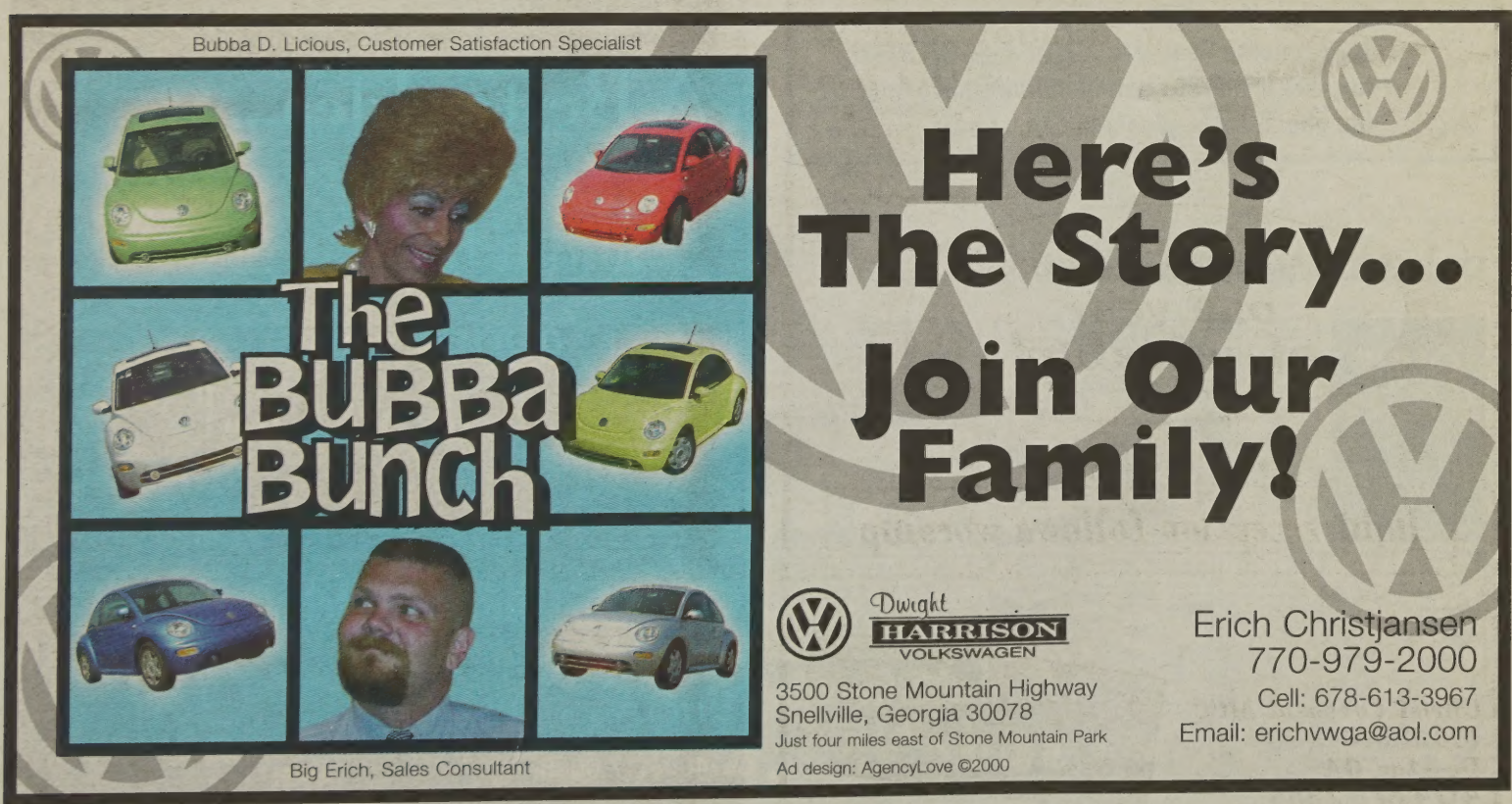
I made a decision at that moment that I was not going to jail myself out of love by finding a reason why this one wasn't *the one*. Maybe there isn't *the one*, I thought to myself in that instant of clarity. Maybe you meet somebody whose raw materials complement your raw materials and you build *the one* together.

And thus, on Valentine's Day, a long-term relationship was born, and a long-reigning emperor died.

Brad and I lasted for seven years. Seven wonderful years. Okay, six wonderful years and one awful one. But the point isn't the death of a relationship but the birth of a new consciousness.

This is my first dateless Valentine's Day in seven years. I haven't felt the need to cringe since taking the I out of Claudius.

Michael Alvear lives with Zoey & Zack, his lesbian Labrador and girlie-boy Vizsla. He can be reached at mikealvear@aol.com



PLANT LIFE

Enough of 'feng shui by day'—and gay

by DREW PLANT

Is the feng shui craze over yet?

I mean, I am happier than a bear in a campground that people have gotten water features, mirrors and big hunks of rock in the right places in their homes, but it has just gone too far.

I do not want anyone else to tell me to cut down the single pine tree in front of my house (bad luck). Or to reroute the storm drain next to my house (it'll carry away my dreams, fertility or wealth, depending on who you ask—or don't ask).

Surely you have heard of feng shui (pronounced "fung schway"). If not, you must have spent recent years on the cast of a television show that deposits you in a remote area from which you can only return naked, rich and inexplicably famous.

No, as many Web sites, books and "feng shui by day" calendars will tell you, this "science" teaches "how to manipulate your surroundings to make an impact on your finances, health and emotions."

My feng shui frustration came to a head recently when some fool called me at work with a proposition that he come "balance" my office to further productivity and enhance my "professional well being." I had a hard time being polite.

I can tell you for absolutely no consulting fee whatsoever that my workday mood would be improved by shorter days, long lunches and a bottle in my desk, not to mention the cessation of inane phone calls from someone who is going to move a tree to the other side of my filing cabinet (a by-phone example this faux consultant gave me!).

Well, someone who uses a compass in my house to tell me the whole damn place faces the wrong direction just doesn't seem too scientific to me.

By the way, a Feng Shui Master's compass is called a "Lo-Pan." The feng shui office balancer who called me felt it was important for me to know that he had his own and started every job with it. I didn't know what a Lo-Pan was, but I do love a

> Literally, feng shui means wind and water. I'm sure it started out legitimate enough, but then kooks and bad interior decorators got a hold of it.

Literally, feng shui means wind and water, and it's purported to be the ancient Chinese study of how to position yourself in the natural order of the universe. Key components: the year you were born, the environment surrounding you and movements of the solar system. I'm sure it started out legitimate enough, but then kooks and bad interior decorators got a hold of it.

Still, feng shui's defenders protest a bit too much that it is a scientific discipline (based on the analysis of energy).

man who brings his own equipment.

Especially after my Net-based research indicated that feng shui involves balls and more balls. Specifically, therapy balls. Sometimes Chinese therapy balls. Other times iron balls. And, get this, the advice that you should select small balls and gradually increase to larger balls as you become more comfortable with your work!

My Feng Shui Quest (also the title of my next romance novel) turned up an article on "sacred smells for your sacred spaces." No comment. Another feng shui tome proposes that a really thorough house cleaning can get rid of bad karmic energy. Hey, my great-grandmother knew this and would have considered feng shui to be witchcraft at the very least.

Then there seems to be a whole debate over wind chimes—what they have to be made of, where they have to be placed, when they have to be moved and whether they really have any feng shui zing at all. I won't even go into the fact that there is apparently an entire school of thought around feng shui being kosher (or not). Oy Vey!

I have most enjoyed learning and hearing about how to spot feng shui fakes and "feng shui charlatans." Even these feng shui consumer advocates seem to be out for a buck. They ultimately sell you feng shui-zines (magazines for the devotee) and have Web sites full of stuff—mainly ducks and flutes and amulets that look like Angie Dickinson's earrings.

Then again, that may be exactly what this craze has going for it.

Drew Plant is an Atlanta-based writer who is, at this moment, concerned that the lack of a fire element in his home is a harbinger of bad resale value. Write Drewbob@mindspring.com and tell him how you chose to hang your wind chimes.

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action! alert

by ERIC ERICKSON

Gay themes = restricted ratings?

Universal Pictures says it won't re-edit 'Billy Elliot' to get tamer rating

During one scene of the film "Billy Elliot," the title character dances smack into a wall, despite being a prodigal talent with a natural knack for ballet. It's an obvious metaphor about internal conflict and trying to break through an emotional wall.

Although heralded by many critics as one of the best films of 2000, the independent film has faced walls itself—including being stamped with an "R" rating from the Motion Picture Association of America.

On its Web site, the MPAA says "Billy Elliot" received an "R" rating due to language. While the movie does include the "F" word, some gay activists have said they fear the film's rating had more to do with the young male character's love for ballet and his acceptance of a flamboyant gay friend.

Although the more restrictive rating could hurt the film, both directly at the box office and indirectly in awards nominations, a Universal Pictures spokesperson said this week that the company is standing by the film as is, and will not make any changes in hopes of receiving a lower rating from the MPAA.

Due to company policy, Universal representatives wouldn't comment about the film's R rating or why they feel it was rated as it was. The MPAA, which keeps its membership secret, also won't discuss the reasons for the rating beyond the Web site statement.

The MPAA's tight lips have frustrated gay activists, who haven't hesitated to speak out in support of "Billy Elliot."

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation feels so strongly about the quality of "Billy Elliot" and its message that the film was nominated for the outstanding film award at the 12th annual GLAAD Media Awards.

Cathy Renna, GLAAD news media director, said the group has tried numerous times to get a list of MPAA board members. "We have no idea who these people are. That's where the concerns may arise," she said. "There was language that could be deemed for the rating, but we don't know that."

"Billy Elliot" has also been nominated for three Academy Awards, including Best Supporting Actress, Best Director and Best Original Screenplay, but it was passed over in nominations for Best Picture, despite being included in the category at last month's Golden Globe awards.

Universal's 'Billy Elliot' danced its way into the hearts of many gay viewers, and into an 'R' rating from the Motion Picture Association of America.

While the "R" rating doesn't mean it has a lesser chance of winning an Oscar—1969 Best Picture winner "Midnight Cowboy" was originally rated "X"—it does mean the film is doomed to smaller audiences that may lead to less business at the box office.

That, in turn, could lead to problems in the best picture category, some critics contend. "Billy Elliot" made $19 million at the box office, while no best picture winner since 1990 has made less than $75 million, with seven making more than $100 million.

Meanwhile, critics of the MPAA cite a string of gay-themed movies that received restricted ratings, while some racier mainstream films—including "Meet the Parents" and Arnold Schwarzenegger's "The Sixth Day" easily got "PG-13."

Other films made over the last few years with gay plots rated "R" by the MPAA include "Get Real," "Beautiful Thing," "Trick," "It's My Party," and "Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss."

"We don't ever want to see some kind of double standard being held for gay and lesbian films in comparison for homosexuality," Renna said.

ACTION! info

Motion Picture Association of America
15503 Ventura Blvd.
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Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation
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If you know of an issue that needs response or lobbying from Southern Voice *readers, please forward the information to editor@sovo.com or fax it to 404-876-2709.*

"quote/unquote"

compiled by REX WOCHNER and STAFF REPORTS

"Don't Fear It, Don't Flaunt It."

—Christopher Dandeker, who heads the war studies department at Kings College London, to the *New York Times*, Feb. 10. Dandeker was comparing the approach of the British military to gays serving openly to the U.S. military policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." Britain removed its ban on openly gay service members last year.

"I am telling you, you're gonna blink and you'll be 80 and alone in a caftan with a lap full of catnip saying, 'Here kitty kitty kitty.' It's time to put the sex back in homosexual, Will."

—Jack (Sean Hayes, left) to Will (Eric McCormack) on NBC's "Will & Grace," Feb. 1.

"The most significant social change in the United States during the Clinton presidency was the social mainstreaming of gay Americans and the ebbing of anti-gay prejudice."

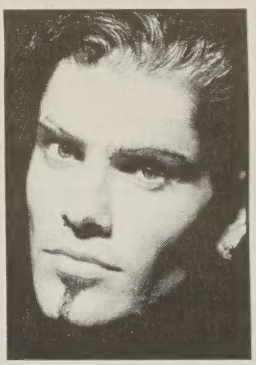
—Author Bruce Bawer writing in the *New York Times*, Jan. 26, about the impact of President Clinton's administration on gay men and lesbians.

"I get all kinds of e-mails telling me I'm working with the Nazis. But we're optimistic that President Bush will keep a dialogue going with the community."

—Kevin Ivers of the Log Cabin Republicans to the *New York Times*, Jan. 26. LCR has been criticized by some gay civil rights groups for not opposing conservative appointments to the Bush administration, like Attorney General John Ashcroft, who has made anti-gay statements as an elected official.

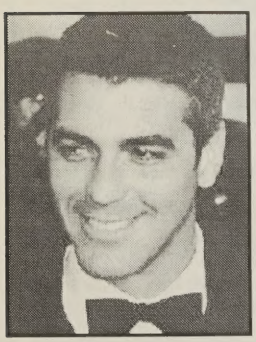
"Ronan threw me out of Boyzone because I wasn't gay enough—it's as simple as that."

—Ex-Boyzone member Shane Lynch (right) criticizing former band mate Roman Keating for wanting him to be like Stephen Gately, the former Boyzone member who came out while still in the band, in the *Mirror's* "3am" column.



"I hope no young gay man somewhere out there watches the show [Showtime's 'Queer As Folk'], packs his U-Haul, and moves to Pittsburgh, thinking he's going to a gay mecca. That would be kind of sad for him."

—Pittsburgh advertising executive Robert Handley to *USA Today*, Jan. 25.



"It was my publicist, Stan, and he didn't dress well."

—Actor George Clooney (left) when asked by reporters at the Golden Globe awards Jan. 21 who his date was for the evening.

"Stuart grins when he's fucking; you know he's having a good time. Brian looks grim and angry. Stuart has a heart; Brian is soulless. Stuart flirts with an attractive medical worker in the hospital; Brian fucks an attractive medical worker in the room where his friend is lying in a coma. Watching Stuart have sex, I want to join in. Watching Brian have sex, I want to scrub myself off with Lysol. If I'm going to watch sex, anonymous or otherwise, I'd like it to feature at least some minimal sense of delight at the touch of another human being. Otherwise I could just jerk off to 'On Golden Blond' or 'Guess Who's Coming at Dinner' or whatever this week's porno hit is called."

—Dave Tuller comparing the protagonist of the British "Queer As Folk" (Stuart) with the protagonist of the American version (Brian), Salon.com, Jan. 10.

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Everything's comin' up roses

Former Marietta resident and 'American Beauty' Oscar winner Alan Ball's play 'Five Women Wearing the Same Dress' opens in his home town

by KEELY BROWN

For writer Alan Ball, everything *is* coming up roses. American Beauty roses, that is.

Ball, whose original script for the hit movie "American Beauty" won him an Oscar for best original screenplay in 1999, has come home to Georgia again, metaphorically speaking. His play "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," is currently being staged at Marietta's Theatre in the Square

A native of Marietta, Ball spent two years at the University of Georgia before going off to Florida State in 1976.

"I spent five or six years there studying theatre, writing and producing my own work," says Ball. "But a degree in theatre is relatively worthless, and I was a bad student, so I took a leap of faith."

That leap landed him as co-founder of a theater in Sarasota, Fla. The '80s took him to the young writer's mecca, New York, where he wrote for publicity magazines and tried to establish himself as an off-Broadway playwright. Instead, he was offered the chance to write for the television sit-coms "Cybil" and "Grace Under Fire," not-so-pleasant experiences which motivated Ball to take out his frustrations by writing a movie script.

"Working at network TV is frustrating if the most important thing to you is the quality of the work and not the money," reflects Ball. "It's a marketing industry. The programming is only there to support the advertising.

"And the network people believe that the audience is comprised of morons. As a writer you're just a hired gun. You write what other people tell you to write, and these are generally the same formulaic ideas."

Last season, Ball was given a chance to write a new sitcom. "Oh Grow Up" included gay characters in the cast. The show, however, was soon cancelled by ABC. "It's not really a show I would have watched," he admits.

Nevertheless, Ball believes that television is slowly getting more realistic in its portrayal of gay people. "For so many years gay characters were portrayed as villains, and then they became long-suffering martyrs," he observes. "I like to see characters who aren't defined just by being gay."

This belief has given Ball some reservations about the much-talked-about series "Queer As Folk."

"I don't care about that party club world—I'm bored with it," he remarks. "And to see more graphic depictions of gay sexuality is no reason to have a television program. I can go rent a video if I want to see that."

Ball's frustrations with writing for mainstream pop culture led to his creation of the script "American Beauty," a movie hailed for its unswervingly accurate depictions of the values—and presumptions—of American society.

The movie also utilized gay characters in everyday life, a presentation Ball feels strongly about. "It's the way I think," he explains. "I think of myself not so much as a gay man, but as a member of the human race. Being gay is such a hot-button issue, and so much of society wants to define me like that.

"But as a writer I don't want to just write about gays and lesbians and their issues, but about everyone. I want to live in the real world and not just the gay world. I love the gay world, but life is more complex than that, and I want to write about this complexity, this rich diversity."

For Ball, growing up in the South a few decades ago brought him face-to-face with complexity and repression.

➢ Continued on Page 36

The play 'Five Women Wearing the Same Dress' written by Academy Award winner and Marietta native Alan Ball features five bridesmaids and a rascally [illegible]or. The cast is pictured (clockwise l-r): M[illegible] Williamson, Rebekah Baty, Elizabeth Diane [illegible]lls, Shannon Eubanks, Jen Apg[illegible], Rob Beams.

While Theatre in the Square stages 'Five Women Wearing the Same Dress' Alan Ball is busy taking the reigns as director and writer for a new HBO series.

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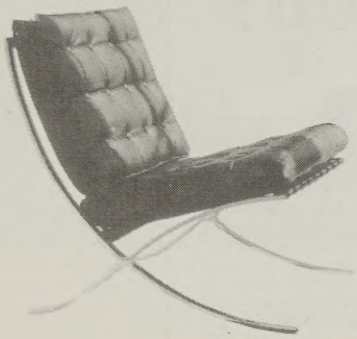

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out in music

by ERIN O'BRIANT

DWIGHT CARTER

Sweet Honey in the Rock returns to Spelman College Feb. 17 to perform at the 10th annual Fund for Southern Communities benefit.

Sweet Honey rocks!

Grammy-winning choral group's Atlanta concert benefits Fund for Southern Communities

Grammy-award-winning ensemble Sweet Honey in the Rock returns to Atlanta this Saturday for its 10th annual benefit for Fund for Southern Communities. The African-American all-female quintet traces its roots to the sacred music of the black church—spirituals, hymns, gospel—as well as jazz and blues. Their powerful music and outspoken opposition to all forms of oppression has made the group a favorite among gays and lesbians.

Southern Voice caught up with Sweet Honey in the Rock founder Bernice Johnson Reagon for a telephone interview the week before the group's Atlanta appearance.

Southern Voice: Why does Sweet Honey in the Rock have such a large lesbian and gay following?

Bernice Johnson Reagon: We've made it a point to be clear about what we think about the rights of gay and lesbian people to be respected as human beings and as citizens of this country. There should not be any obstacles placed on gay and lesbian people because [they] are gay and lesbian..

SoVo: You have a daughter who's a musician and an out lesbian. How might your music have influenced her?

Reagon: You'll have to interview Toshi [Reagon] yourself. I don't talk a lot about her. I find her a very powerful person and she's one of my strongest collaborators. She's one of my favorite people in the world.

SoVo: Why do you support Fund for Southern Communities?

Reagon: Fund for Southern Communities is a fund that supports funds—Southern organizations in the South, grass-roots level. Sometimes when you're just beginning to organize to address your issues it's most difficult to get support, so a foundation that's looking for leadership, looking for groups that are trying to stand for their issues I think is just wonderful. They don't disc against gay and lesbian organizations.

SoVo: Sweet Honey sings a song about the AIDS quilt. Tell me more about that.

Reagon: It's called 'Patchwork Quilt' by Michelle Lanchester, an African-American song writer in Washington. She wrote it the first time she saw the AIDS quilt and we recorded the song. It's one of the most powerful ones. It's not the only song where we deal with people who are gay and lesbian and some of the challenges of these communities, but it's one of the most powerful. It's the one that people thank us for, especially people who've been going to too many memorial services for their loved ones who've died of AIDS.

SoVo: I've heard a rumor that a member of Sweet Honey in the Rock made an anti-gay comment during a concert. Was that a misunderstanding?

Reagon: We did get a letter from a guy who attended a concert in Atlanta at the Black Arts Festival. He said he was with his lover and he could not believe what came out of my mouth and he was also shocked that the audience agreed with me. I did a *tongue in cheek* statement that the audience read correctly and he absolutely misunderstood it. I was introducing Patchwork Quilt, and I said, 'When this crisis broke out in our community it broke out in the homosexual community and there were members of churches—and some churches were black churches—who suggested that God had done that. I took the time to write to this person to talk about it and explain and the person never responded.

INFO

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Stolen gay memoirs

David Leavitt's 'While England Sleeps' embellishes the life of author Stephen Spender

by TIA LANDAU

WHILE ENGLAND SLEEPS is a novel about English men, homosexuality and the Spanish Civil War. It's the love affair between Brian Botsford, an upper-class young writer, and Edward Phelan, a working-class idealist and member of the Communist Party.

Brian is the more educated and views his same-sex orientation as something he will *simply* outgrow. Edward, who is self-educated and from a poor family, views his sexuality for what it is and accepts easily the unorthodox relationship between them.

Brian's benefactor is his wealthy Aunt Constance who relentlessly, by controlling the purse strings, insists upon his meeting a suitable young woman from a good family. The young woman does appear, of course, in the form of Philippa Archibald.

The two actually are attracted to each other and a relationship develops. Brian begins spending time with his upper-class friends, leaving Edward who would never fit in, at home.

Brian and Philippa are engaged to be married—Edward is devastated. Fleeing, Edward volunteers to fight Franco in Spain. He becomes a deserter and lands in prison.

Brian, feeling deeply responsible for Edward's plight, ends up pursuing him across Europe into the violent extremes of war. As one would suspect—Edward meets a tragic end.

Author David Leavitt was still an undergraduate at Yale when he published his first short story in the esteemed literary magazine *New Yorker*.

The author of "Family Dancing" (1985), "The Lost Language Of Cranes" (1986, adaptation shown on PBS), and "Equal Affections" (1989) achieved popularity quickly. He was the new hot writer among his contemporaries.

Based on Stephen Spender's 1951 memoir "World Within World," "While England Sleeps" was met with outrage by Spender, who was one of the writers in W.H. Auden's group of mainly gay, left-wing friends at Oxford.

Along with writer Christopher Isherwood, the three traveled and worked together, enjoying the gay life of Berlin and Hamburg in the 1930s. They all three left Germany when the Nazis came to power.

Auden and Isherwood went to the USA while Spender returned and remained in Britain, who had by this time decided he wasn't *really* gay.

In 1993 Spender sued Leavitt for plagiarizing his life in "While England Sleeps." He was enraged by the sexual embellishments it gave to episodes from his autobiography. For all intents and purposes, Leavitt took Spender's '50s sexual sensibility to task by giving it a dose of hard-core reality.

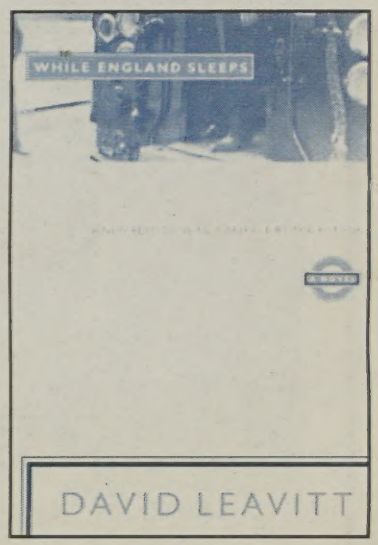
Against Spender's accusations of plagiarism Leavitt reacted defensively and self-righteous. To the world's eyes he was the brash, crude American pitted against the 85-year-old English Poet. Needless to say, the press for Leavitt was not good.

Spender succeeded in stopping publication on both sides of the Atlantic.

"While England Sleeps" was published in the United States in 1995, by Houghton Mifflin, but only after Leavitt rewrote the passages that most closely paralleled Spender's book. Spender died in July 1995 before the revised American edition and Leavitt's defensive preface attacking Spender as "an enemy of the imagination" was published.

Turning fact into fiction seems perhaps unethical for a fellow writer from another era—especially when the life you are stealing is still living.

As the preface indicates, Leavitt's retooling of Spender's experiences came at a high price. Nonetheless, "While England Sleeps" is a fascinating peek into a bygone era.



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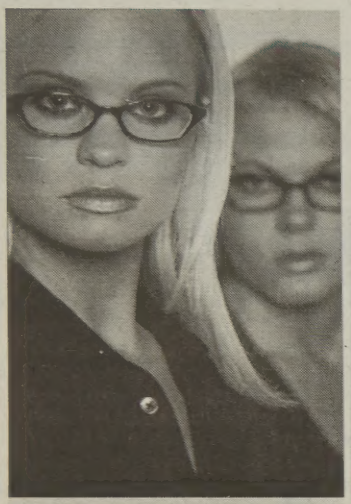

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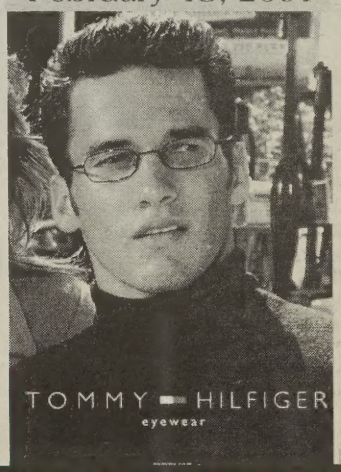

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on screen

FILM, VIDEO & TV REVIEWS

by STEVE WARREN

You are who you eat

A fictional sequel and an original documentary both offer a unique perspective on life

When Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins), the thinking person's Freddy Kreuger, announces, "I need to come out of retirement and return to public life," fasten your seat belts!

It's ten years after "The Silence of the Lambs." The FBI is still after Lecter but so is his sole surviving victim, filthy and rich Mason Verger (Gary Oldman), who lives in Asheville's Biltmore Estate.

What's left of Verger's face is horrible to behold. A flashback shows how he got that way when he picked Lecter up one night and brought him home to party.

HANNIBAL is the ideal sequel, familiar yet different. Jodie Foster is sorely missed as FBI Agent Clarice Starling, although Julianne Moore is as good as any substitute could have been. Ridley Scott ("Gladiator") fares better, replacing Jonathan Demme as director and keeping production values first-class all the way.

A bisexual woman character has been dropped from Thomas Harris' source novel, but Verger is gay and the Justice Department's Paul Krendler (Ray Liotta) homophobic; so the villain roster offers something for everyone and GLAAD will still have plenty to bitch about. Hannibal's Panama hat makes him look rather like Truman Capote, but his madness is beyond sexuality.

INFO

'Hannibal'

Directed by Ridley Scott

Starring Anthony Hopkins, Julianne Moore, Gary Oldman

Queer Quotient: There's one despicable gay character but he's not as bad as the killer in 'Silence of the Lambs,' and for balance there's a homophobe who's almost as unpleasant.

★★★

If you have a problem with Verger cutting off his own face while high on poppers and swinging from a noose, forget about seeing the movie. Like "Silence of the Lambs" it's not for the faint of heart or stomach, but it's done with more than enough grace notes to distinguish it from the typically cheesy movies of the genre.

So many, in fact, that you have to be patient while the plot is set in motion; but know that your patience will be rewarded.

Clarice gets in trouble when a drug bust goes bad. Krendler, a misogynist as well as a homophobe, is sent to help with damage control. Verger, who wants to administer his own justice to Lecter, offers a reward that Italian police detective Giancarlo Giannini goes after; but Verger also rekindles the FBI's interest in one of their Ten Most Wanted, who has been laying low for a decade.

Memorable sequences become more numerous as we approach the climactic dinner-table scene: Lecter lecturing on the link between avarice and hanging in art as Giannini nears his date with destiny; the three-way cat-and-mouse game at Union Station; Lecter's encounter with wild boars as carnivorous as he is; and his strange relationship with Clarice that makes her want to protect him even as she hunts him down.

Moore lacks Foster's vulnerability and faces more competition than her predecessor, with Hopkins' role being much larger and Oldman making Verger a compelling weirdo.

"Hannibal" must be considered a success if only because it's not too great a disappointment.

Anthony Hopkins suffers hunger pangs in 'Hannibal.'

Julia Query stars in and directs 'Live Nude Girls Unite!'

INFO

'Live Nude Girls Unite!'

Directed by Julia Query & Vicky Funari

Starring Julia Query, Dr. Joyce Wallace

Queer Quotient: More feminist than lesbian, but writer-producer-director-star Query is out and proud.

At Ga. State's Cinefest, Feb. 16-22

★★★

A heady mix of politics and provocative, **LIVE NUDE GIRLS UNITE!** documents a Jewish lesbian's effort to unionize a San Francisco peepshow while trying to keep her mother from learning what she does for a living. Julia Query, who co-directed with Vicky Funari, guides us amiably through her life, which also serves as fodder for her stand-up act in a queer cabaret.

Raised in a liberal New York household, Julia moved to San Francisco and became involved in the sex industry, writhing at a peepshow, the Lusty Lady, which had better working conditions than most but still exploited its workers.

"I wondered why I could tell my mom I was gay but not a stripper," Julia says; but she finally comes out during the months of negotiations for a union contract. Her being a lesbian is no more an issue than it is a secret.

In addition to more humor than the average documentary about labor conflicts, "Live Nude Girls Unite!" includes more—well, live nude girls; but the nudity is often casual and more artistic than exploitative. Query's involvement in the story ensured that the camera was always in the right place at the right time.

Equally importantly, Query, Funari and their crew knew how to assemble the footage they got in a way that's amusing, entertaining, informative and provocative.

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Integrity Alabama. A witness of the gay and lesbian community in the Episcopal church. Fourth Sundays. 205-944-6616 or 256-739-3614. E-mail Integrity_AL@hotmail.com

Mercy MCC. Sundays, 11 am. Coffee and fellowship, 10 am. 130 South 12th St, Gadsden.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Birmingham. Sundays, 9:30, 11:15 am. 2365 Cahaba Rd. 205-879-5150

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Auburn. Sundays, 10 am. 450 Thatch Ave., Auburn. 334-826-0595

huntsville

MCC Huntsville. Sundays, 11 am and 6:30 pm. 3015 Sparkman Ave. 256-851-6914, mcchhsv@hiwaay.net or www.mcchuntsville.org

Unitarian Universalist Church of Huntsville. Sundays, 10:45 am. 2222 Governors Dr. 256-534-0508

mobile

Cornerstone MCC. Thursdays and Saturdays, Pink Triangle AA, 7 pm. Sundays, bible study 9:30 am, worship 11 am and 7 pm. Wednesdays, prayer service 7 pm. 334-582-9333

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Mobile. Sundays, 10:30 am. 6345 Old Shell Rd. 334-342-6834

montgomery

New Hope MCC. Sundays, worship 5:30 pm. Wednesdays, Bible study, 7 p.m. Thursdays, discussion group, 7 p.m. 566 Oliver Road. 334-213-0490, newhopemcc@aol.com, www.newhopemcc.com

Unitarian Universalist Church of Montgomery. Sundays, 10:30 am. 5280 Vaughn Rd. 334-279-9517

tuscaloosa

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Tuscaloosa. Sundays, 10:30 am. 6400 New Watermelon Rd. 205-758-0729

florida

pensacola

Holy Cross MCC. Sundays, 10 am. Bible Study Wednesdays, 7 pm. 415 N. Alcaniz St. 850-433-8528. holymcc@blackiris.com."

georgia

athens

Our Hope MCC. Sundays, 11 am. Presbyterian Student Center, 1250 S. Lumpkin St. 706-202-3723

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens. Sundays, worship 11 am. 706-546-7914

north georgia

Georgia Mountains Unitarian-Universalist Church, Dahlonega. Sundays, 11am. Hwy 19 at Park St. 706 864-0661

Mountain Light Unitarian Universalist Church, Ellijay. Sundays, 10:30 am. 3423 Turniptown Rd. 706-636-4935. www.mluuc.org

atlanta

Abundant Grace Community Church. Wednesdays, spiritual growth group 7:30 pm. 404-815-0036

All Saints Episcopal. Sundays, 8 am, 9 am, 11:15 am and 5:30 pm with Holy Communion. 634 W. Peachtree. 404-881-0835

All Saints MCC. Sundays, 10:50 am., Sunday school 10 am. Wednesdays, choir & ministry teams 7:00 pm. 2352 Bolton Road N.W. 404-296-9822 or 404-605-7140. www.allsaintsmcc.com.

American Apostolic Catholic Church—Parish of St. Mary's Dormition. Sundays, 9 and 11 am. 404-982-0265

Atlanta Church of Religious Science. Sundays, 10:30 am., Rich Auditorium of the Arts Center, 1280 Peachtree Street. 404-355-3767

Atlanta Friends. Sundays, Quaker services 10 am. 404-377-2474

Christ Covenant MCC. Sundays, worship 11 am, Queer Spirit 7 pm. Wednesdays, dinner and prayer, 6 pm, choir rehearsal and ministry teams, 7 pm. 109 Hibernia Ave. 404-373-2933

Circle of Friends. Tuesdays, 7 pm. Group meets to share personal stories of faith and spirituality. 770-937-5035

Circle of Grace Community Church. Sundays, 6 pm. 404-624-1140

Circle of Love Fellowship of Atlanta. Sundays, 10 am. Wednesdays, bible study, 7:30 pm. 778 Rays Rd Ste 108. 770-469-6419

Clifton Presbyterian Church. Sundays, 11 am. Wednesdays, Bible study 7:30 pm. 369 Connecticut Ave. 404-373-3253

Congregation Bet Haverim. Second Fridays, vegetarian/dairy potluck dinner 7:30 pm. All other Fridays, Shabat Service, 7:30 pm. Sundays, 9:30-11:45 am. Atlanta Friends Meeting House, 701 W Howard Ave. 404-607-0054 or CBH@mindspring.com

Episcopal Church of the Epiphany. Sundays, 8:45 and 11:15 am, 6 pm. 2089 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-373-8338.

First Existentialist Congregation. Sundays, Celebration of life, 11 am. Full Moon Rituals. 404-378-5570 or e-cong@mindspring.com

First MCC of Atlanta. Sundays, worship 11 am, 6:30 pm series of workshops on spiritual and self-help topics. Wednesdays, worship 7:30 pm. Gay and Lesbian Health Fair, Sunday Feb. 25, 12:30 pm. 1379 Tullie Rd. 404-325-4143

Gentle Spirit Christian Church. Sundays, 7 pm. Beginning Oct. 14, 10 am-12 noon, GLTBS theology discussion group. 404-522-1444

Inman Park United Methodist Church. Sundays, 10:55 am. 404-522-9322

Integrity Ministry. Second Fridays, 7 pm. All Saints' Episcopal Church, Atlanta. Integrity is the gay and lesbian ministry of the Episcopal church. meal provided. 404-642-3183.

Marietta/Kennesaw Mountain Church of Religious Science. Sundays, 10:30 am. 770-656-8467

Meditations for the Millennium. Tuesdays, 7 pm. Introductory workshop in Eastern philosophies. 404-627-8708

Metaphysical Group. Mondays. Come meet your spiritual family! 404-250-7775

Nacoochee Presbyterian Church, Sautee. Sundays, 10 am. 706-878-2226

New Church at Unity Midtown Sundays, 11 am. 404-874-1937

New Covenant Community Church. Sundays, Fellowship 5:30 pm, Worship 6 pm. Charismatic/Pentacostal church in Midtown. 770-729-8434. www.newcovenantatlanta.com

North Point Church of Religious Science. Sundays, 10:30am. Homewood Suites, Davis Dr. 770-569-8601

Northwest Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Sundays, 10:30 am. 770-955-1408

Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church. First Sundays, combined worship 10 am. All but first Sundays, contemporary worship 9 am, traditional worship, 11 am. 404-627-2216

Pilgrimage United Church of Christ. Sundays, worship 10 am. Wednesdays, casual, alternative worship 7 pm. 3755 Sandy Plains Rd. 770-971-0007

Rameshori Buddhist Center. Meditations for a Peaceful Mind. Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30-9pm. 2531 Briarcliff Road. 404-486-0342. www.rameshori.com

Redefined Faith Worship Center. Third Sundays, 11 am. GSU Student University Center, corner Gilmer and Courtland Sts. 743 Virginia Ave. 404-872-2133

Snellville United Methodist Church. Sundays, New Freedom Fellowship for Recovering Addicts, 11 am. 770-929-8505 or 770-484-6346

St. Aelred's Parish Ecumenical Catholic Church. Saturdays, Vigil Mass 5:30 pm. Virginia Highland Baptist Church basement chapel, 743 Virginia Ave. 404-508-9128

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church—Sundays, 8 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm. 1790 LaVista Rd. 404-634-3336

St Luke's Episcopal Church. Sundays, 8 am, 9 am, 11:15 am, with Holy Communion. 404-873-7600

St. Mark United Methodist Church. Sundays, worship 9 am and 11:15 am. Wednesday dinner, 6:15 pm, program 7 pm. Corner of Peachtree and 5th. 404-873-2636

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church. Sundays, 8:30 am, 10:30 am Holy Eucharist. 4755 North Peachtree Road. 770-455-6523, www.stpat.net.

Trinity Church of Religious Science. Sundays, 11 am. 430 W. Trinity Place. 404-296-6064

Trinity United Methodist Church. Sundays, 10:45 am. 404-659-6236

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta. Sundays, 9:30 and 11:15 am. 1194 Cliff Valley Way (off I-85 N Access Road). 404-634-5134.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Gwinnett County. Sundays, 11 am. 770-717-7913

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marietta. Sundays, All-inclusive service, 10:30 am. 770-528-9542

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of North Metro Atlanta. Sundays, 9:45, 11:30 am. 11420 Crabapple Rd. 770-992-3949

Unity Fellowship of Christ Church. Sundays, 3 pm. 404-752-5030

Virginia-Highland Baptist Church. Sundays, Liturgical worship with Holy Communion, 11 am. 404-873-1355

augusta

MCC Augusta. Sundays, 11am and 7pm. 311 7th Street. 706-722-6454

Unitarian Universalist Church of Augusta. Sundays, 10:30 am. 3501 Walton Way. 706-733-7939

columbus

Anchored in Christ Ministries. First Sundays 11 am, Sunday night worship 6 pm, Wednesday nights 7 pm. 3802-B 2nd Ave, corner of 38th and 2nd Ave. AnchoredInChrist@aol.com, 706-653-1488

Fellowship of Love Christian Church. Sundays, worship 2 pm, bible study 7 pm. Thursdays, bible study 7 pm. 1442 Double Churches Rd. 706-569-6436

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbus. Sundays, 10:30 am. 1442 Double Churches Rd. 706-660-1442

macon

St. Barnabas MCC. Sundays, 6:30 pm. Last Sundays, potluck after services. High Street Unitarian Church, 1085 High Street. 912-722-0057

High St. Unitarian Universalist Church, Macon. Sundays, worship 11 am. Wednesdays, catered dinner with religious education to follow 6 pm. 912-741-1714

savannah

Unitarian Universalist Church of Savannah, Troupe Square. Sundays, 11 am. 912-234-0980

louisiana

baton rouge

Church of Today. Sundays, 10:30 am. Barksdale Center, 7877 Jefferson Highway. 225-924-9839.

Joie de Vivre MCC. Sundays,11 am. 330 E. Chimes. 225-383-0450

Unitarian Universalist Church of Baton Rouge. Sundays 10:30 am. 8470 Goodwood Rd. 225-926-2291

new orleans

Grace Fellowship in Christ Jesus. Sundays, 11 am. Wednesdays, bible study 7 pm. 3151 Dauphine St. 504-944-9836

Jewish Family Services. Sympathetic counseling and spiritual advising. 3330 W Esplanade, Ste 600. 504-831-8475

MCC of Greater New Orleans—Sundays, 11 am. 1128 St. Roch Ave. 504-945-5390

The Old Catholic Church. Affirming, inclusive and welcoming. Sacramental services; same-sex unions. Call for times. 103 Brunswick Ct. 504-433-5912. old_catholic.tripod.com

St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Sundays, 9:30 am. Weekdays, after-school program 3-6:30 pm. 1130 N Rampart. 504-529-1681

St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Sundays, 9 am. Unction with Annoiting first Sunday of each month. 120 West Prosper St., Chalmette. 504-271-3844.

Tau House Franciscans. Sundays, mass 4:15 pm. 1029 Governor Nicholls St. 504-529-3569

Unitarian Universalist Community Church. Sundays 11 am. 6690 Fleur de Lis Dr.

north shore

Abundant Grace Christian Fellowship. Sundays, 10 am, pre-service prayer 9 am. Wednesdays, bible study 7 pm. 2100 N. Hwy 190, Suite C. 504-871-9527

mississippi

Gulf Coast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Sundays 11 am. Harrison County Mental Health Association Building, 4803 Harrison Circle. 228-863-5928

Hattiesburg Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Sundays, 10:45 am. The Garden Center, 209 N. Hutchinson Ave. 228-543-0400

Unitarian Universalist Church of Jackson. Sundays, 10:30 am. 4866 North State St. 601-982-5919

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Oxford. Sundays, 10:30 am. Student Union, University of Mississippi. 662-234-8817

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asheville

Cathedral of All Souls. Sundays, 8, 9, 11:15 am. 3 Angle St. 828-274-2681

St. Joan of Arc. Second Thursdays, anointing of the sick and fellowship 7 pm. 919 Haywood Rd. 828-252-3151

MCC Asheville. Sundays, 6:30 pm, Wednesdays, Bible Study 6:30 pm, Choir Practice at 7:30 pm. 420 Swannanoa River Road. MCCASHE@aol.com, http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/6701/

Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville. Sundays, 9:30, 11:15 am. 1 Edwin Pace. 828-254-6001

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Unitarian Universalist Church of Chattanooga. Sundays 11 am. 3224 Navajo Dr. 423-624-2985

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Integrity of Knoxville. Third Sundays, Eucharist 7 pm. St. Michael's and All Angels. 865-524-9587

MCC Knoxville. Sundays, 11 am and 6 pm. Bible study Tuesdays, 7 pm. Coffee House, second Fridays, 7-10 pm. 865-531-2539

St. Ninian's. Fridays, 7:45 pm. Meal at 6:30 pm at the well. 2527 Linden Avenue. 865-523-6101 or 865-971-3970, http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Village/2378

Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church. Sundays 11 am. 2931 Kingston Pike. 864-523-4176

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clarksville. Sundays, 10:30 am. Montgomery County Historical Society Building. 931-647-5544

Unity Church of Knoxville. Sundays, worship 11 am, Youth Education classes 11 am. Northwest Middle School Auditorium. UnityofKnoxville@juno.com

memphis

First Congregational United Church of Christ. Sundays, 9 am, 10:30 am. Wednesdays, 6 pm. 246 S. Watkins. 278-6786

First Unitarian Church. Sundays, 11 am. 292 Virginia Ave., W. 901-526-8631

Holy Trinity MCC. Sundays, 11 am. Wednesdays, 6 pm. 3430 Summer Ave. 901-320-9376 HTCC@aol.com. www.holytrinitymemphis.org

Integrity. Third Tuesdays, 6:30 pm, dinner, 7 pm. Calvary Episcopal Church. People of all faiths and ideologies welcome. 901-525-6602

Living Word Christian Church. Sundays, 10 am, 6 pm. Wednesdays, 7 pm. 340 N. Garland. 901-276-0577

MCC of the Rainbow, Jackson. Sundays, 11 am. 601-372-6644.

Neshoba Unitarian Universalist Church. Sundays 11 am. 8580 Cordes Cir, Germantown. 901-756-5433

nashville

Bible Studies. Call for locations and times, 615-837-2424 or 615-356-7073

Women's Spirituality Group. Mondays, 7 pm. For lesbian and bisexual women. The Center. 703 Berry Road. 615-646-5163

Church of Living Water. Sundays, worship 6:30 pm at First Unitarian Church, Madison. First Sundays, service for the sick/elderly10:30 am at Madison Health Care. Wednesdays, bible study 6:30 pm, Unitarian Church. Third Fridays, weekend at Rainbow Falls Resort. 615-865-2679

East End United Methodist. Sundays, worship 7 pm. Thursdays, bible study 7 pm. Christian Fellowship. 13th and Holly Sts. 615-227-3261

First Unitarian Universalist Church. Sundays, 9 and 11 am. 1808 Woodmont Blvd. 615-383-5760

Greater Nashville Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Sundays, 11 am. 374 Hicks Rd, Bellvue. 615-383-6460

Hydes Ferry Pike. Bible study: 5:30 pm, service: 7 pm. 615-292-0922

MCC Nashville. Sundays, worship 10 am, and 7 pm, Sunday school 8:45 am. Wednesdays, bible study 7 pm. 615-259-9636

Rejoice & Be Glad. Lesbian and Gay Catholics. Second Sundays, potluck, fellowship and support. 615-646-5163, rejoicebglad@hotmail.com.

St. Anne's Episcopal. Tuesdays, Lesbian/Gay Episcopalians and Friends 6:30 pm. Eucharist with potluck following. Wednesdays, Gay/lesbian AA 6:30-7:30 pm. 419 Woodland. 615-297-7779 or 615-333-7509

Stonewall Mission Church. 6 pm. Center for GLBT Life in Nashville. 615-297-0008

United Methodist Church. Fourth Wednesdays, Lesbian/gay potluck and fellowship 7 pm. 1502 Edgehill Ave. 615-254-7628

Unity Center for Positive Living. Sundays 9:30 & 11 am. 3028 Lebanon Rd. 615-391-5408

Vanderbilt University Chaplain. 615-322-2457.

religion news

CO church dumps Scouts, troop negotiates 'Don't Ask' policy over gays

GOLDEN, Colo.—A second Denver religious organization has barred Boy Scouts from its premises, while a Golden, Colo., troop has negotiated a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy with Scouting's parent group over its policy banning gays, the *Denver Post* reported. Troop 130 has established a "policy on sexuality" which says that it won't try "to discover the sexual orientation" of Scouts or Scout leaders. The troop "won't report rumors concerning, seek to determine or evaluate the sexual orientation of any member." The document also prohibits any sexual activity or sexually oriented talk at Scout functions. Golden troop leader John Hedberg said the troop negotiated with Jeff Cozart, a regional Scouting leader, and unspecified "Boy Scout lawyers in Texas." Tom Fitzgibbon, executive director of the Denver Area Boy Scout Council, said he understands the policy "is in line with national BSA policy." In Denver, Washington Park Church will end its 60-year association with the Boy Scouts because the group refused to lift the gay ban outright. "We voted unanimously to end the relationship," said the church's pastor, Rev. Clyde Miller. Last October, Temple Emanuel, the city's largest synagogue, voted to ban Scouting from its facility.

Private investigator questions story of gay minister found in Texas

DALLAS—A Texas private investigator is questioning the story of a man who resurfaced as a gay MCC minister in Texas after disappearing from his family 16 years earlier, the *Amarillo Globe-News* reported. Wesley Barrett Cox, now known as James Simmons, claimed amnesia when he woke up in a Memphis hospital in 1984, moving from there to Virginia and California and attaining divinity degrees, before surfacing in Dallas. Jay J. Armes, an El Paso-based international private investigator who was hired by Simmons' late father, Wesley Cox, to investigate the disappearance, said Simmons concocted the whole amnesia angle and staged his disappearance as a way to come out of the closet. "I kept telling [Simmons' father, who passed away in 1991] all the time, we're following a shadow," Armes said. "This was perpetrated." Armes said Beth Cox, Simmons' ex-wife, said she was "insulted" when Armes told her his theories. Beth Cox met privately with her ex-husband last month, who had been declared dead seven years after his disappearance. Simmons has since taken a month-long leave from the gay church he was hired to lead.

A private investigator doubts the story of James Simmons, a gay pastor in Texas who said he suffered amnesia after an attack 16 years ago.

Two Southern presbyteries reject ban on same-sex unions

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.—The voting continues in Presbyterian church conferences across the country on whether to codify a prohibition stopping ministers from officiating at same-sex unions in Presbyterian churches. In Winston-Salem, N.C., the Salem Presbytery, which represents about 150 Presbyterian churches in 19 counties, voted 167-158 to reject the ban, according to the Associated Press. In Columbia, S.C., the Trinity Presbytery, which represent 69 churches in 11 South Carolina Midlands counties, also rejected the ban, the *State* reported. In Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Presbytery voted 224-119 to ratify the ban, the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* reported. As of Feb. 7, the tally of presbyteries was 48 against the ban, and 21 in favor, according to the newspaper. Some 87 out of 173 presbyteries will have to approve the ban by the end of March for it to take effect.

Church vandals arrested as MA congregation receives wide support

SUDBURY, Mass.—The defacing of a church's rainbow symbols and banners has resulted in an outpouring of support for the church across denominational lines, the *Metrowest Daily News* reported. Michael Patton, 17, and William Duvall, 17, and a 16-year-old juvenile girl, were charged Feb. 6 with spray-painting swastikas on the rainbow banners displayed to attract gay worshipers to First Parish Church, a Sudbury Unitarian Universalist congregation. In response to the attack, an inter-denominational vigil was called, bringing out Catholic, Jewish and Presbyterian support for First Parish. "I know there are different theological approaches and moral teachings between his church and First Parish," said Catholic priest Rev. Michael Bova Conti, "but something like this shouldn't happen in a civilized society." The teens appear in court later this month.

Growing congregation offers safe space for gays in SC church

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP)—A Metropolitan Community Church in Charleston is growing rapidly, going from 80 to 120 members in only two months. New pastor Rev. Elder Wilhelmina Hein said the increase in attendance is because of the safe space the church creates for gays. "What I often find as a pastor in the community is that there are times the struggle [for acceptance] gets to be too much," Hein said. The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, which began in 1968, has about 300 congregations worldwide.

—From staff and wire reports

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thursday, feb. 15

Bisexual/Bi-friendlies Discussion/Support Group. 7-9 pm. First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr NE. 404-373-3679

Friends for Life. 6:30 pm. For African-American men in the life. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-589-9040

HIV Psychotherapy Group. 5:30 pm. Call for info. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-589-9040

Positively Living. 7:30 pm. Gainesville support group for HIV+ individuals, led by HIV+ individuals. St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, Oakwood. 770-503-7555

PWA. 7:30 pm. AIDGwinnett. 725 Scenic Highway, Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396

Teen Group. 6 pm. For youth age 14-18. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-523-7500

Yoga & Meditation for HIV/AIDS. 5-6 pm. Donation requested. Jaya Devi Yoga Studio, 312C N Highland Ave. 404-688-6757

Young Adult Group. 7 pm. For adults age 19-24. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-523-7500

HIV+ Women 45 & Older Support Group. 11 am-noon. Shariffa Dempsey 404-885-6800 or Valerie Fluker 404-880-8863

friday, feb. 16

Potter's House. Noon. Day program. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

saturday, feb. 17

Atlanta Gender Explorations. Open meeting for newcomers; call for info. 770-517-0265

Nicotine Anonymous. 6:30 pm. Galano Club, Dutch Valley Rd. 404-244-8444

Women's Discussion Group. 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-523-7500

sunday, feb. 18

Grief Support Group. 5:15 pm. Abundant Grace Community Church, 743 Virginia Ave. Call Dot 770-923-5714

Life Begins At ... 3:00 pm. A social and discussion group for gay men and lesbians over 40. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-523-7500

monday, feb. 19

Gambler's Anonymous. 7 pm. Galano Club, 585 Dutch Valley Rd. gamblersanonymous@yahoo.com

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HIV Long-term Survivors. 7 pm. Call for info. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-589-9040

HIV Risk Reduction. 4 pm. Call for info. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-589-9040

Infected Men's Group. 7 pm. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

Link Counseling Center Cancer Support Group. Ongoing for cancer patients and families. 7-8:30 pm. 404-256-9797.

Long Term Recovery. 4 pm. Call for info. 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-589-9040

Men's Discussion Group. 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-523-7500

Positively Living Support Group. 7:30 pm. AIDS Survival Project, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-874-7926

Potter's House. Noon. Day program. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

Sex & Relationship Addiction Recovery Groups. GLBT meetings Monday and Wednesday evenings. Mixed meetings daily throughout metro Atlanta. 404-239-8048; www.sca-recovery.org

tuesday, feb. 20

Alcoholics Anonymous. 7 pm. Ormewood Park Presbyterian Church, corner Woodland & Delaware Aves. 404-627-2216

Alcoholics Anonymous. 8 pm. Ga Baptist Medical Center's Newton House, 320 Parkway Dr. 800-651-8191

BiNature. 7-9 pm. Discussion and support group for bisexuals and bi-friendlies. Voluntary donation. BiNet Atlanta and First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr. 404-256-8992

Friends, Family, Partners and Volunteers Support Group. 7:30 pm. AIDGwinnett, 725 Scenic Hwy, Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396

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HIV Bereavement Open Group. 7 pm. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-589-9040

HIV-Affected Meditation Group. 7 pm. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-589-9040

HIV+ African-American Men's Support Group. 1-2 pm. Lunch provided. AIDS Education Services for Minorities. 404-753-2900

Infected/Affected Support Group. 6:30 pm. Absolutely Positive+ Inc. 770-642-6646

Nicotine Anonymous. 6:30 pm. Galano Club, Dutch Valley Rd. 404-244-8444

PWA Support Group. 7:30 pm. AIDGwinnett, 725 Scenic Hwy, Lawrenceville. 770-962-8396

Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group. 5:15 pm. Closed confidential group, limited spaces. AIDS Survival Project, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-874-7926

wednesday, feb. 21

Zen Buddhism Lecture. 8 pm. Abbot Keido Fukushima, head abbot of Tofukuji Monastery in Kyoto, Japan. Followed on Feb. 22 with practice session in Zen meditation. Oglethorpe University Museum of Art. 404-364-8446.

Cancer Support Group. 7 pm. Jewish Family & Career Services, 4549 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd. 770-677-9300

Coming Out Group. 7 pm. 10 weekly sessions for lesbians and gay men early in the "coming-out" process. Participation limited to 10 people. Registration is required. Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-523-7500

HIV+ Support Group. 7-8:30 pm. Richardson Health Center, 445 Winn Way, Rm 260, Decatur. 404-508-7788

Living Well With HIV. 7 pm. Call for info. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-589-9040

New Beginnings. 6 pm. Support for the newly HIV diagnosed. Absolute Wellness, the BRAC Center. Lindbergh Plaza, Ste. A-100. 404-264-9011

New Beginnings. 7 pm. For newly diagnosed HIV+. Absolutely Positive Inc. 770-642-6646

Newly Diagnosed Open Group. 6 pm. Positive Impact, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd., 404-589-9040

Overeaters Anonymous. 8 pm. Galano Clubhouse, Dutch Valley Way. 404-872-4838

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ms. behavior

Common-sense advice on life and love

by MERYL COHN

Love at first sight?

Dear Ms. Behavior:

I met a fabulous man recently and instantly feel like I am in love with him, even though I barely know him. I'm not sure if he knows I exist or not, so it is causing me some pain. My friends tell me that what I am feeling is not love, but merely obsession. How can you tell the difference? Either way, I remain...

—Smitten

Dear Smitten:

Ms. Behavior is happy to provide you with the lowdown on love versus obsession, although she is too embarrassed to disclose her own ratio of these experiences.

When you are in love, images about your own physiology fill your mind. You might, for example, feel like a new compartment in your heart has opened, or you might visualize your chest expanding to make room for the swelling of your new feelings.

When you are obsessed, you cannot keep your feelings to yourself. You tell everyone you know how you are feeling, how happy you are, how perfect your new lover is. You talk about how smooth his feet are, the softness of his caress.

But when you're in love, you don't find yourself endlessly babbling to your friends about your new lover: Thinking of your beloved is a little private treat, a secret you savor.

You do not share. He is the warm loaf of bread you eat under the covers, the stolen cup of cocoa you drink when no one is around.

True love causes you to get oddly weepy over small things and fills you with bittersweet feelings that could make you cry at any moment, even during sex. Being in love is like being really premenstrual, even if you are a man.

You become overly drippy and somewhat disgusting to be around, especially to your deeply cynical friends, who claim to want you to be happy, but are really invested in your remaining as miserable as they are.

When you are in love, your friends are overcome with jealousy, and they torture you. They imitate the vacant look on your face and try to make you feel uncool.

When you are obsessed, you think of the object of your desire throughout the whole day. When you wake up in the morning, you envision what she looks like awakening.

You imagine her brushing her teeth, although you try not to picture her spitting. You wonder what she eats for breakfast and try to eat the same thing so that somehow you will be magically linked.

When you get to work, you call her answering machine to listen to the sound of her voice. You love the way she says her name and that she can't come to the phone right now.

You always wonder, in any given moment, if she is thinking of you. On an especially obsessive day, you drive by her house, trying to see in the windows. You become curious about her ex-lovers and try to run into them.

When you do meet them, you decide that they are too butch or too femme or too porcine and that you are much cuter. You can't eat a thing for two weeks and then you eat everything in sight, even some frozen hot-dog buns that are covered with a two-inch layer of ice.

You lie in bed in your flannel pajamas, clutching your pillow, wondering what she is wearing. You wonder if she is lying in bed, thinking about you.

Your friends start to avoid you a little, or at least start changing the subject a lot. You wonder what you did before you met her, because you cannot imagine what your life would be like without her.

> True love fills you with bittersweet feelings that could make you cry at any moment, even during sex.

You pull out a dusty old journal and start writing again, mostly adolescent musings about pain and longing and unrequited love, mixed in with the occasional sexual fantasy.

You get a dramatic haircut. You listen to wrist-slashing music about love and feel that the songs were written for you. You start wearing make-up again, and ordering clothing from catalogues.

You close your eyes and envision kissing her. When your obsession gets really bad, at its peak, you start asking yourself philosophical questions.

You think about the nature of love versus lust or obsession, and you even start writing to advice columnists, looking for answers. You poor thing. Ms. Behavior trusts you will be out of your misery soon enough.

Meryl Cohn is the author of "Do What I Say: Ms. Behavior's Guide to Gay and Lesbian Etiquette" [Houghton Mifflin, 1995]. Address correspondence to: Ms. Behavior c/o Southern Voice, 1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D, Atlanta, GA 30306, or to msbehavior@aol.com.

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MONEY MATTERS CONCERNING GAY MEN AND LESBIANS

by MARTA SHEN and KARL GUSTAFSON

CINDY SPROUL

When roles reverse, caring for parents can be tough

A mix of patience and love is the best recipe

Many of us face caring for aging parents. But many gay people may find it especially difficult to talk to their parents about their finances or estate plans. You may have a current or previous strained relationship from coming out. Or maybe they have not accepted your partner as part of your family.

If talking to your parents about their estate plan is something you know you need to do; here are some helpful tips.

How to approach the topic

Most people have no idea when, or even how, to broach this topic. Prepare for resistance.

Death isn't a pleasant topic, and people can be suspicious of anyone who asks about their money, even when (and sometimes especially when) the person asking is their own child. Ideally, conversations about estate plans (and other financial and health-related matters) should take place while your parents are still in good mental health.

Obviously, any conversation about sensitive matters is affected by the particular dynamics of your own family. If you have siblings, you may want to bring them into the dialogue at the outset. If you have a partner, involve him or her.

What if you already know or they indicate that they have not done any planning?

You should make it clear that you respect your parents' needs and concerns. Your conversation is more likely to be productive if your parents do not feel they are being attacked. Explain that you are bringing up the subject now to avoid potential conflicts and to ensure that their wishes are followed.

Let them know that you're not worried about what you'll get but that they probably don't want Uncle Sam to get any more than necessary.

Another way to approach the subject is the "I have a friend" conversation. Mention that you are thinking about this now because you have a friend who recently went through the death of a parent. With no estate plan in place, there were difficulties in settling the estate. As a result you hope to be able to avoid such a situation in your own family.

> Let your parents know that you're not worried about what you'll get, but what Uncle Sam will take.

Topics of discussion

Don't try to tackle all of these at once—it may be overwhelming.

What are their current estate planning arrangements (wills, trusts, etc.)?

What is their current insurance situation and needs (life insurance, long term care, etc.)

What are their desired living arrangements?

How would they like to be cared for?

Have they taken care of the possibility of needing long term care? Will parents live with you (and your partner)?

Have you discussed this possibility with your life partner?

If not with you, then where?

What are their desired burial and funeral arrangements?

Do your parents have enough assets and income to live out the rest of their lives?

If not, who will pay?

Have they created a personal and financial data file? If not, encourage them to do so.

What if after all this, your parents refuse to talk to you? If they're capable of managing their affairs for now, you may want to drop the matter and re-approach them later.

You may even want to visit with an attorney or financial advisor. Don't try to push your parents before they are ready—it could ultimately damage your relationship with them.

Plant the seed over time and they are likely to open up. Above all, show your love and concern, and try to be patient.

Marta Shen, JD, CPA and Karl Gustafson, CFP, MBA are Financial Advisors with American Express Financial Advisors.

Mind, Body, & Spirit

Continued from page 33

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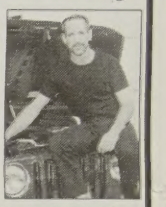

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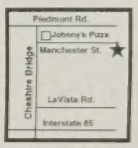

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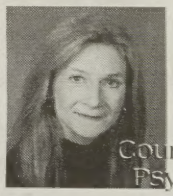

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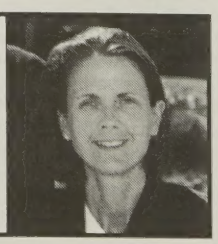

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Georgia's Alan Ball makes good even better

➢ Continued from Page 25

"I didn't even know myself that I was gay," he recalls. "Like many who came of age 20 years ago I felt it was an option I couldn't explore—it was too upsetting. I spent a long time trying to be straight—I didn't even tell my mother until I was 34.

"Now I only go back to Marietta to visit my family," he says. "Years ago I was horrified by that flap at Theatre in the Square. But I was also horrified that Newt Gingrich was the congressman for Marietta. Of course, I know that that's not all of Marietta. These are just some people who are afraid of the realities of the world and of life.

"I love it that there's a theater in Marietta—there wasn't one when I was growing up there," he adds. " I didn't even see a play until I was in high school."

"Five Women in the Same Dress" was written during the playwright's years in New York, where it had a run before going on to regional productions. "I started writing this play back in 1993," he says.

"I had gone to a wedding with a friend, and her old boyfriend was there. It turned out that he had slept with every one of the bridesmaids. At the reception every time you turned around you saw one of the bridesmaids yelling at him.

"I thought it was very funny that was the seed of the plot. You never even see the character of the man in the play, but his effect on all of the women is far reaching.

"I do like the play a lot, and I have a soft spot for these women characters. They seem very real to me. And I'm thrilled that Theater in the Square is doing it," says Ball. "I wish I could be there, but I'm filming my latest project for TV."

His latest project is a new HBO one-hour weekly drama, "Six Feet Under," which is slated to premiere in June. The publicity buzz for it has already begun.

"It is very similar in tone to 'American Beauty'," says Ball. "It's about a family of undertakers in L.A. The two brothers take over the business, and they're both gay. It's very much a real life series, but it's not preachy. I don't like being preached at."

Ball admits that his first love is still the theater, but that you can't knock success. "Movies and TV have embraced me more," he points out. "I have a lot of ideas for plays I want to write, but I've learned that producing a television series is a full-time job." Upcoming film projects include a script he's currently writing for Tom Hanks.

In the meantime, Alan Ball stays true to his integrity as a playwright and scriptwriter—and to his fans, that makes all the difference.

'I think of myself not so much as a gay man, said Academy Award winner Ball, but as a member of the human race.'

"I think that if there is an underlying theme in my work, it's that it's difficult to live an authentic life in an inauthentic world," he observes. "People have a deep need to be authentic. It's a harder road but so much more rewarding when you are. I write about people searching for meaning in their lives.

"The images and messages we're bombarded with on a daily basis are all lies. This is very much an American phenomenon. I'm not saying that it doesn't exist anywhere else, because it does, but it is concentrated to a much higher degree here. This is because we have a culture that is based on marketing. We are provided with a daily diet of distraction."

But underneath his philosophizing lies a deep vein of common sense.

"I lucked out into doing exactly what I want to do," he says simply. "And I'm going to ride it as long as it lasts."

INFO

'Five Women Wearing the Same Dress'
Through Feb. 25
Theatre in the Square
11 Whitlock Ave, Marietta
Tuesday -Saturday at 8pm,
Sundays at 2:30 and 7pm.
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dish

There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

Abs and crotches and fitch, oh my!

Abercrombie & Fitch launched the latest issue of its notorious "magalogue" last week with a smooth, tight party held in New York's meat packing district, appropriately enough. The spring issue, shot by Bruce Weber and subtly titled "XXX" hit the stands this week. And according to Sam Shahid, the catalogue's designer, this issue promises to be the most outrageous yet. Shahid told *Fashion Wire Daily*, "It's racy, sexy and gorgeous with a lot of images of spring break." And assuming you spend your spring breaks hanging out in the woods with naked male models or cuddling in your underwear with your muscular twin brother, Shahid is telling the honest to God truth! The catalogue boasts that the current issue is even more provocative than a holiday issue that featured a lesbian wedding, naked men in Santa Claus hats and a commentary from Florence Henderson on penis size. Special thanks to Abercrombie & Fitch: Putting the log back into catalogue!

According to Abercrombie & Fitch, most muscular twin brothers spend their spring breaks cuddling in their underwear.

Marriage: Impossible

February may be the month for lovers, but Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman decided this month that their marriage was simply a mission impossible. The two cited their hectic professional schedules as the reason for the break-up, according to AP news reports. The couple tied the knot 11 years ago when Cruise was building a reputation as one of Hollywood's hottest stars and Kidman was a struggling beginner in the biz. The high profile pair adopted two children during the course of the union. Cruise and Kidman starred together in the sexy film "Eyes Wide Shut" and sued and won when a tabloid reported that they had to be coached by a sex therapist for their lovemaking scenes. On that note, consider the Tom topic closed and Dish's mouth wired shut!

It's splitsville for Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman.

Reno buys used truck, goes barefoot

Former Attorney General Janet Reno told Fox affiliate WSVN in Miami that the first thing she did upon returning to her South Florida home as a private citizen was to take off her shoes and walk barefoot through her yard. Reno stated that though the ground was cold, the walk still felt good to her bare feet. Isn't that sweet? Reno arrived for the interview in what has been reported as her "new pride and joy," a previously owned red pick-up truck. Ms. Reno even provided insight into what music a passenger in her pick-up would most likely hear in the vehicle's sound system: Beethoven's Third, Patsy Cline and folk music. The former Attorney General said she plans to relax, work in the garden and is looking forward to a kayak trip through the Everglades. No plans *for building* a deck onto her home were discussed in the interview.

Former Attorney General Janet Reno is hittin' the town with her red pickup truck!

Terminator bad behavior

Action star Arnold Schwarzenegger may be facing his most brutal battle yet, but this time the nemesis isn't a sci-fi creation, it's the actor's own reputation! The *New York Daily News* reports that a scathing article in the March issue of *Premiere* magazine is set to expose the actor as a boorish bully with less social graces than Conan the Barbarian. Included in the article are details of Schwarzenegger's public make-out session with "Total Recall" co-star Rachel Tocatin and accounts of the actor reaching inside a female crew member's blouse and then laughing as the woman ran away in hysterics. Schwarzenegger also reportedly intentionally humiliated a male assistant by barking at him "Sit, you ugly dog!" According to the story, the assistant embarrassingly dropped to his knees. The aging muscle head is accused of sparing no one with his tacky temperament, not even wife Maria Shriver. One witness in the article claims to have watched in horror as Arnold angrily berated his then-pregnant wife for having to end a game of tennis the couple were playing in order to throw up from her morning sickness! Well, now we know what Arnold's weakest muscle is—his heart!

An upcoming tell-all reveals the truth about Arnold Schwarzenegger's bad temperament.

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TRAVEL TIPS FOR THOSE OUT & ABOUT

by JAY VANASCO

Cold and dark *can* be romantic

Ideal for off-season visits, Copenhagen offers much for gay men, but little for lesbians

Scandinavia seems a strange place to visit during the bitter winter months. It's dark. It's cold. And all the lovely sidewalk cafes that dance with life in postcards are shuttered for the season.

Yet **COPENHAGEN** is ideal for off-season visits. There's plenty for gay men and lesbians—and other travelers—to do indoors, the cold is no worse than the chill in any Northern city, and there's something about the long, early dark that is romantic instead of gloomy.

Copenhagen is heartily welcoming to gay men and lesbians. Most people speak English, making it easier to meet the locals.

The gay community in Copenhagen is laid back but extremely visible. In 1989, Denmark was the first country in the world to officially recognize gay and lesbian marriage.

In 1999, the gay community won the right to adopt the children of their partners. The first Copenhagen gay bar, Centralhjornet, opened over 75 years ago and still exists.

With such a long history (the gay movement got it's official start in 1948), it's no surprise our host in Copenhagen told us there was no need for a gay district because gay people were welcome everywhere.

Copenhagen is a charming, walkable city. You can hop from bar to bar—or attraction to attraction—without ever needing to take a cab.

Most gay bars, cafes and restaurants are clustered around the Strojet, the pedestrian-only street near the center of the city. There are also thousands of free bikes available for a small 20-kroner deposit at 150 city bike stands—along with miles and miles of dedicated bike lanes. Everyone bicycles, even on the coldest winter days.

During the day, take in the well-regarded National Museum, the crown jewels at the Rosenborg Castle, or, if you're lucky enough to be there during the holidays, the twinkling lights of Tivoli, a surprisingly romantic 157-year-old amusement park.

A rental car can take you up the calm eastern coast of Denmark to the Louisiana Museum, a contemporary art museum with an extraordinary sculpture garden.

Dining isn't inexpensive—there's a 25 percent tax—but it is casual. There are plenty of well-designed, candle-lit—and gay-friendly—restaurants that are a relaxing end to a day of sight-seeing.

> Our host in Copenhagen told us there was no need for a gay district—gay people are welcome everywhere.

We visited Café & Bar Sebastian, a popular café on two floors where happy hours are known as "gay hours" and the new Heaven Café, Bar and Brasserie, an intimate restaurant that becomes a friendly bar in the late evenings. Both are good places for a meal or a nightcap.

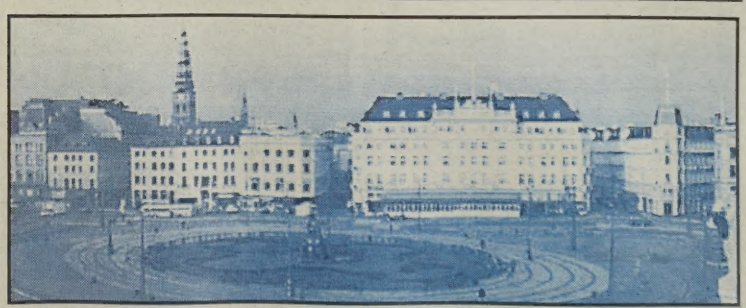
The best disco in the city is the gay and lesbian Pan Club, which has four floors, three dance floors playing different styles of music and a couple of cozy lounges off to the side. Lesbians say that Pan is the only place in the city for them to dance; there seem to be almost no all-women establishments.

As in other cities, there is a plethora of bars, drag clubs and sex clubs for men, but finding women will take a little hunting.

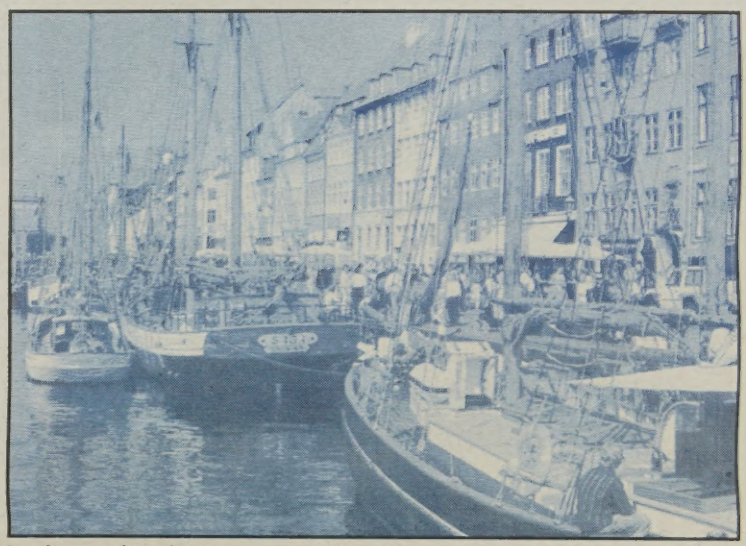
For an inside view of the lesbian scene, visit Kvindehuset, a women-only co-operative that houses a college-like café and dance club as well as a fashion-design apprenticeship program and retail store for young lesbians.

INFO

The Copenhagen Women's House
45-36-14-28-04
www.visitcopenhagen.dk
www.copenhagen-gay-life.dk.



Copenhagen is a charming, walkable city with a gay rights movement that dates to 1948.



Travelers can take in the picturesque sites of Copenhagen without ever having to call a cab.

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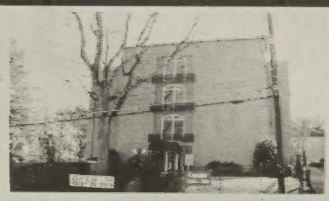

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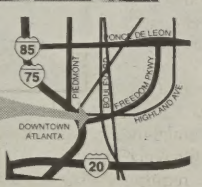

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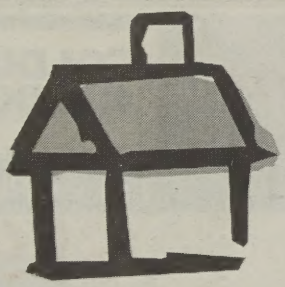

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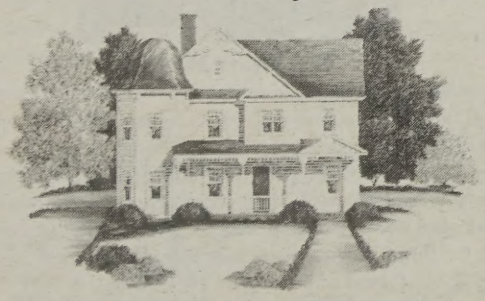

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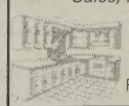

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT by DAMON FOWLER

The couple that cooks together...

Preparing a meal together can be almost as intimate as love-making

Sharing a meal is nice. There's candlelight and wine and a long tablecloth to cover up the foot action going on benea—sorry, I'm wandering.

Eating together is central to communal bonding in almost every society in history—from the ritualistic meal of Holy Communion to great tribal banquets and feasts to the quiet family table at home. Somewhere in there is that intimate table for two.

But if you really want a bond to last, you wouldn't limit that shared time to a table, eating only food that someone else has prepared. If you want the bond to last, the place to form it is before the meal—in the kitchen.

Oh, stop it—I'm *not* talking about whipped cream and long kitchen counters!

The act of cooking is very personal. To do it in concert with someone else is almost as intimate as love-making, only far more universal: a sexual bond can occur only between lovers. Cooking crosses the line, embracing all our loves.

Every serious, permanent bond that I have made with another human being, from my grandmother all the way through to my partner, has happened in the kitchen.

I loved both my grandmothers equally, but my maternal grandmother and I shared an intimacy that I never knew with the other one. I'm convinced that it was because, from the time I could stand up alone, we cooked together—making a hundred cakes, countless batches of hand-mixed pimento cheese, as many great pots of vegetable soup, and dozens of golden, light as air doughnuts. Not to mention the ordinary rhythm of the daily meals that marked all my summer vacations.

My past relationship of 14 years failed for many reasons, but it might have made it if we had been able to cook together. We couldn't. We learned very early on to steer clear of one another in the kitchen.

I am not suggesting that the failure was due only to that—it wasn't. But we did miss something that might have made a difference.

Cooking together requires patience, grace, a good sense of humor and a keen awareness of the feelings of your kitchen partner.

Cooking crosses the line bringing intimacy to the kitchen for partners who slice and dice together.

The rewards are immeasurable.

Just before Christmas, a late Saturday found my partner and I making fruit salad for an early Sunday brunch. He's not really a cook, but he does have an eye for detail and a clear palatr—both are

Continued on Page 42

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

➢ Continued from Page 41

invaluable.

We talked comfortably as we scrubbed fruit, peeled, cored, diced, and seeded. We tasted and adjusted together. We teased and fed each other scraps of mango and pear. What would otherwise have been a tedious job alone was a joy with him there beside me.

Macerated Fruit Salad

This is the South's version of that universally beloved fruit bowl—kissing cousin to Italy's macedonia di frutta. It does not have to be Italian, however, to make it a romantic thing to do together, or to make it a light, refreshing dessert that whispers of summers to come on those nasty February nights. Besides, you've probably had enough chocolate.

Serves 6 to 8
2 to 3 medium oranges (see step 1)
2 lemons
2 firm, crisp apples such as Winesap, Pink Lady, Fuji or Granny Smith
2 firm but ripe Bosc or Bartlett pears
2 mangoes (imported mangoes are coming into season—or use peaches in season)
1 cup halved and pitted dark cherries (in season)
1 cup halved and pitted white grapes
1 cup diced cantaloupe or honeydew melon
1/4 to 1/3 cup honey, preferably sourwood
1/4 cup golden rum
2 ripe but firm bananas

1. Juice enough oranges to make 1 cup of juice. Strain it into in a large glass serving bowl. Grate in the zest from 1 lemon, then add the juice of both lemons to the bowl.

2. Peel, core, and dice the apples and pears, adding them to the bowl and tossing well as you go so that the fruit is coated. This helps prevent discoloration. Peel, pit and dice the mangoes, add them to the bowl, and toss well.

3. Add the cherries, grapes, and melon and toss well. Stir in the rum and taste. Add honey as needed. Allow the fruit to stand at room temperature for 30 minutes, then taste and adjust the sweetness, adding either more honey or sugar if needed. (If you are using a strongly-flavored honey such as sourwood, more than 1/3 cup might be overpowering. In that case it will be better to add sugar.) If you are not planning to serve the fruit right away, cover the bowl tightly and refrigerate it. It can be prepared up to two days ahead.

4. Half an hour before serving, peel and slice the bananas into 1/4-inch-thick rounds. Add them to the salad and carefully stir them in with a wide, shallow spoon or spatula. Don't over-mix: too much tossing could cause the fruit—especially the bananas—to bruise and break down. Allow the fruit to sit at room temperature until you are ready to serve it. Serve cool or at room temperature.

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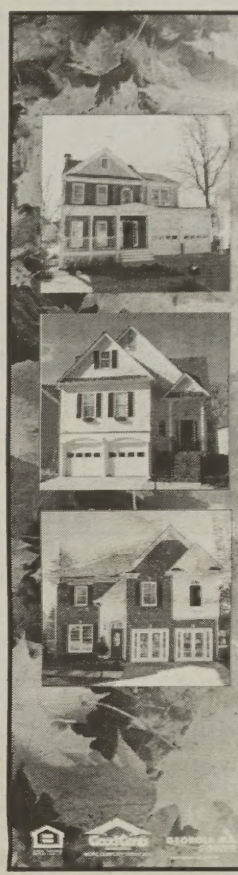

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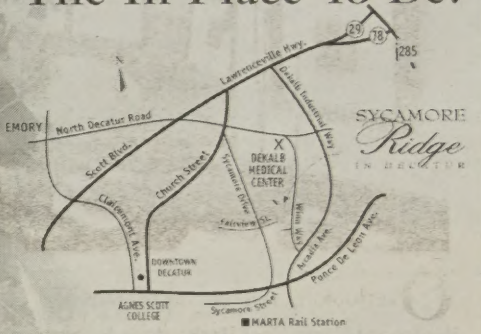

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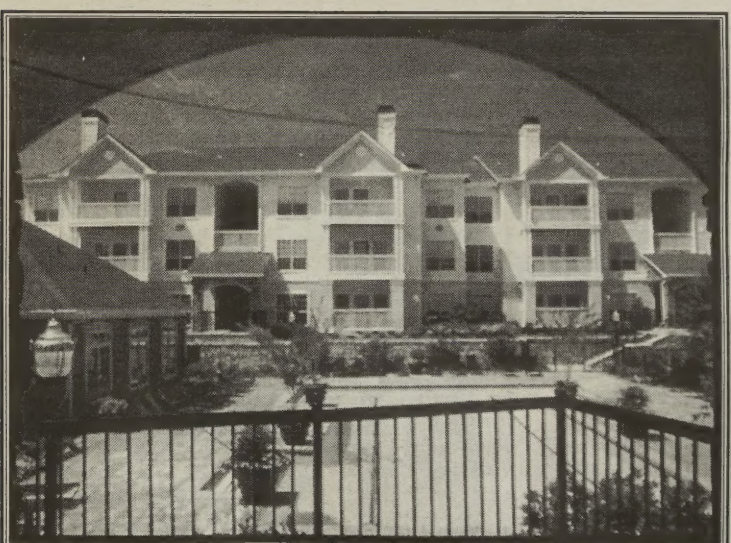

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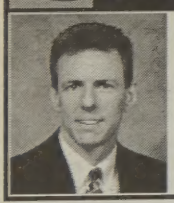
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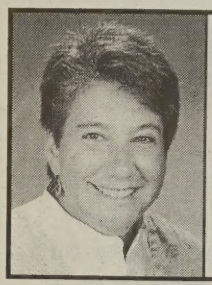

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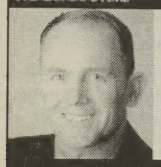

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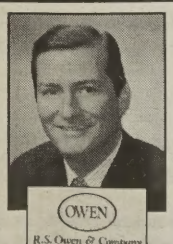

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my stars

by CHARLENE LICHTENSTEIN

Feb. 15 - 21

If there was ever a time to wash one's mouth out with soap, this is it. Marauding Mercury entered Pisces on Feb. 2, retrograded on Feb. 5, backed into Aquarius on Feb. 7 and squares nasty Saturn through mid-month. Ouch! Communication gaffes give us an enormous bite on the butt. Maybe that's your thing?

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
The path to true friendship is rockier than usual. When Mercury squares Saturn, miscommunications with compadres turn out to be costly. Rainbow Bulls re-evaluate how they regard certain social commitments. Good. A new broom sweeps clean.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
Queer Bulls eventually make their own personal success, but should prepare for the agony before the ecstasy when Saturn squares Mercury. You will eventually emerge from your travails metamorphicized. Strut it proudly and avoid Franz Kafka.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
Travel is more trouble than it's worth and just when life appears to settle down again, Mercury squares Saturn and pink Twins have one last gasp at trouble in paradise. Grab the psychic significance of every wrong turn and store it for future reference.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
Pink Crabs can run hot and cold when it comes to sex. When Mercury squares Saturn, friends can get into the balancing act and tip the house of cards over. The lust feast may be lukewarm now, but you'll happily stuff your face once the dust settles.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUG. 23)
Proud Leos pine for connection with a significant other and retro Mercury doesn't make it easy. As Mercury squares Saturn, communications clear for partnerships, but problems crop up in career. Make trade-offs. Hint: I'd choose the relationship.

VIRGO (AUG. 24 - SEPT. 23)
Miscommunications at work plague you when Mercury retrogrades. Proud Virgins get a final zetz that impacts any legal endeavor. Saturn creates roadblocks that require added effort. Like it or not, you'll look at things quite differently.

LIBRA (SEPT. 24 - OCT. 23)
If you've been working hard at being creative, retro Mercury delivers writers block. Then Mercury squares Saturn and unleashes a belching inferno of long buried hopes, dreams and desires that provide gist for your muse mill. Pack the Tums.

SCORPIO (OCT. 24 - NOV. 22)
Retro Mercury delivers a smelly package of family issues. Mercury directs on Feb. 25 but not before it squares Saturn. The family dirt that you've been sweeping under the rug blows out and soils partnerships. Come clean with all. Rub a dub, bub.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 23 - DEC. 22)
Gay Archers tend to be fairly mouthy in general. As Mercury squares transforming Saturn, words come back to haunt you one last time in a manner that you will not soon forget. Sticks and stones may break bones but words detonate a nuclear explosion

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23 - JAN. 20)
Money streams flow into unexpected caves during the Mercury retrograde as proud Caps race around frantically with their empty thermos. We live in interesting times; Splurging on a romantic fling can lead to something much more permanent.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 21 - FEB. 19)
If your public debut has been less than fantastic, blame retro Mercury. Saturn brings family into the mix. That is what the planets have been waiting for; a successful coming out party requires full attendance. Take a bow, compadre!

PISCES (FEB. 20 - MARCH 20)
Guppies have an urge to relate all their paranoid thoughts to the immediate world. Hopefully you'll show some discretion. As Mercury squares Saturn, you'll make one more attempt to demonstrate that you're one egg short of a dozen. Will you crack?

For entertainment purposes only. For more information on Charlene Lichtenstein, including her new book, "HerScopes; A Guide to Astrology for Lesbians," visit www.AccessNewAge.com/Stargayzer.

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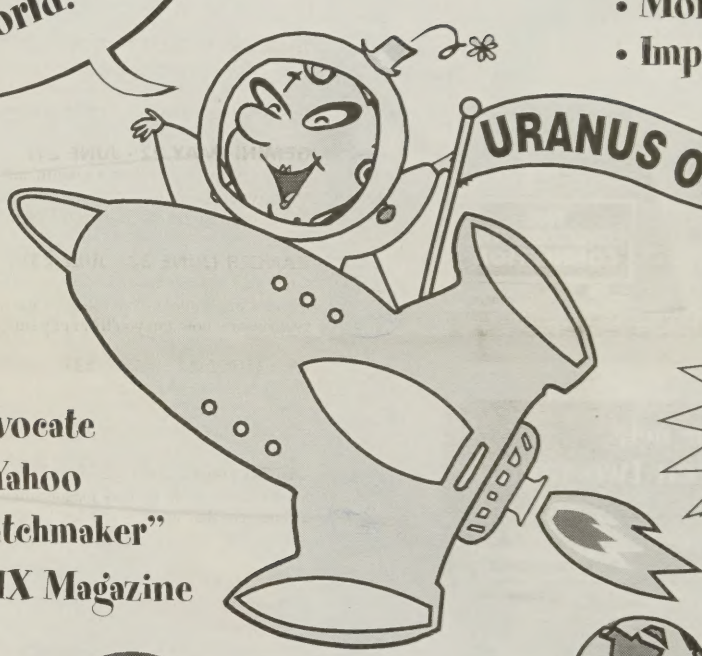

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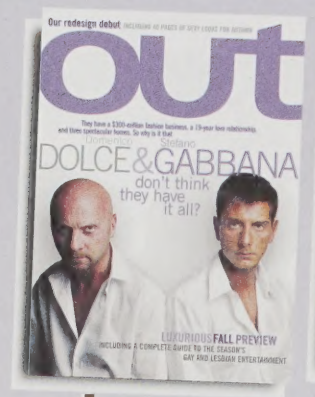
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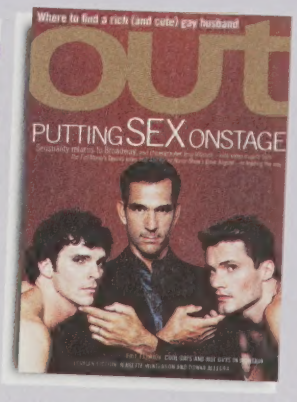

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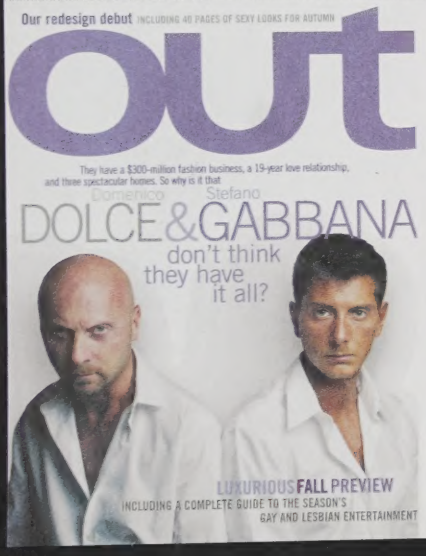
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Lesbian mom's case tests civil unions in GA

Susan Freer's civil union enables her to avoid contempt charge, but not visit children, in a case that could have broad legal implications for gay couples

by LAURA BROWN

Lesbian mom Susan Freer (right) and partner Debra Freer have been left with little more than photographs and unopened Christmas presents, since Susan has not been allowed to visit her three sons for six months.

FLOYD COUNTY, Ga.—Susan Freer hasn't been allowed to see her three sons—Micah, 9, and twins Matthew and Jonathan, 12—since August, the same month she says she told the boys' father, her ex-husband, about traveling to Vermont to enter into a civil union with her female partner, Debra Freer.

Now a Floyd County judge's ruling questions not only whether Freer, who took her partner's last name, will be able to see her kids in the future, but also whether Georgia courts will give any weight to civil unions, which give gay couples the same rights as married heterosexuals under Vermont state law.

Darian Gregory Burns, who has custody of the couple's three children, filed charges in Floyd County Superior Court last summer, claiming Susan Freer "continuously exercised overnight visitation with the minor children... while cohabiting with her female lover."

Because she visited the boys in the home she shared with Debra, Burns charged Susan Freer should be held in contempt of a 1998 consent order in which both parents agreed not to visit the children "during any time where [one] cohabits with or has overnight stays with any adult" to whom they are not married or related.

The problem isn't new to lesbian moms in Georgia courts.

Last year, an appeals court and the state Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal of Jean Ann Vawter, found guilty by a Walton County judge of "willful contempt" of a similar visitation provision.

But the way Freer chose to fight her contempt charge would have been impossible a year ago, and could set legal precedent for the state and capture the attention of gay rights attorneys around the country.

Susan and Debra Freer traveled to Vermont and joined in a civil union on July 4, just a few days after the state's landmark statute—the first in the country to give full rights to gay couples under state law—went into effect.

Freer and her attorney, Adrian Lanser of Cartersville, argued in court that her civil union "satisfies the legally married portion" of the court order.

The case may be the first in Georgia to argue that a "civil union" performed in Vermont should have legal weight here, and it may be the first case in the country to test the application of a civil union in a child visitation case, according to gay legal advocates.

And should higher level courts agree to hear Freer's appeal, the case could also be the first to challenge Georgia's law banning recognition of same-sex marriages, which Lanser says he will argue is unconstitutional.

But if Susan Freer could talk with her children, first and foremost she says she would tell them the case is about love—both the love she holds for her sons, and her love for her partner.

"Debra and I have made such a lifelong commitment to each other, no matter what bigotry these men have exposed you to," Freer said she would tell her children. "And with our union is our common humanity, to share the same human rights as any other."

Interpretation disputed

Floyd County Superior Court Judge Larry Salmon ruled on Freer's case Jan. 30, deciding that "a Georgia trial court is not authorized to consider a foreign 'civil union' as equivalent to a marriage."

Salmon cited both the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which allows states not to recognize gay marriages performed in other states, and Georgia's ban on recognizing same-sex marriages, finding that the consent order remained enforceable against Freer.

But Salmon also declined to find Freer in "willful contempt" of the order "in view of [her] considerable effort... to travel to Vermont and enter civil union in her professed effort to comply with the consent visitation order."

Lanser said he believes the judge's order should mean that Freer can visit her children, just not in the presence of her female partner. But Lanser said when he called Burns' attorney, Doug Slade of Rome, to discuss the ruling, Slade said he and his client believe the ruling means Freer gets no contact with the children at all.

➢ Continued on Page 6

INSIDE

Mortgage broker Sean Waites announces her campaign for Atlanta City Council, becoming the fifth openly gay candidate on the ballot for November's election.
Page 3

Comedy and drag abound as Chris (Chris Ekholm) presents the head of John the Baptist (Rob Cleveland) to Salome (Matt Johnson) in Horizon Theatre's send-up of the holy word, 'The Bible.'
Out in Atlanta, page 13

Gary Yates plays the Foundling Father, a strange man with an unusual obsession for Abraham Lincoln in 'America Play,' the first production for Actor's Express under the guidance of new artistic director Wier Harmon.
On Stage, page 14

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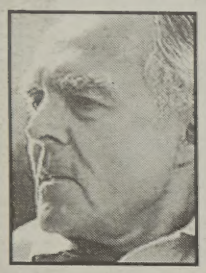

The death of Robert McGowen, a retired Army colonel who ran an AIDS hospice in Jackson, Miss., has devastated co-workers, though some allege that he was anti-gay.

'Shameless Venus' curator Leisha Hulgren says themes of eroticism and women's sexuality run throughout the art show in Birmingham.

'Hoods go gay in Mid South

Practicality, more often than social concerns or civil rights, is the reason behind the start of gay neighborhoods in cities across the Mid South, like Asheville, N.C., Birmingham, Ala., and Nashville.

But once word is out that a neighborhood is affordable and gay-friendly, a transition begins to happen. There's Crestwood and Forest Park in Birmingham, Montford in Asheville and East Nashville.

"What started as just a practical move for single gay individuals several years ago moving into Montford... turned into more gay and lesbian residents buying into the area and renovating it," said Asheville resident Shelley Saraniti (right).

Cost of living pushes gays to new neighborhoods

Some long-decaying neighborhoods in New Orleans have gotten a much needed boost, thanks to the revitalization efforts of gays who have moved in.

Upward moving prices in the French Quarter pushed gays into neighboring Faubourg Marigny and Marigny Triangle. And now the migration is to Bywater.

Mardi Gras season brings many unusual sights to New Orleans, but dogs in polyester suits might rank near the top of the list of the weird. The Mystic Krewe of Barkus, the annual dog parade, kicks off on Saturday.

Friends and admirers packed Presley's Pub in Metairie for a tribute to Alice Brady (left), a long-time bar owner and supporter of the New Orleans lesbian community.

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Gay mortgage banker throws hat into City Council race

Sean Waites' campaign makes five openly gay candidates for ATL city elections

by LAURA BROWN

ATLANTA—Self-employed mortgage broker Sean Waites announced her candidacy for Atlanta City Council last week, becoming the fifth openly gay candidate running for City Council in the November elections.

Waites, an Atlanta native and resident of downtown's City Plaza, is running for the City Council's At-Large Post 1 seat, currently held by Council member Mable Thomas. At-large Post 1 covers City Council districts 1-4, including the neighborhoods of Grant Park, Inman Park, Ormewood Park, Little Five Points, West End, Bankhead and Atlanta University Center.

Thomas also plans to run again for the seat, according to staff in her City Council office. She did not respond to interview requests by press time.

If elected, Waites would become the first openly gay African-American elected official in Atlanta, and only the second in Georgia.

"This could definitely send a powerful message for African-American lesbians in Atlanta," she said.

Atlanta needs more openly gay elected officials, Waites said.

"I can't think of a community where gays and lesbians have contributed more, and they deserve their place in government," she said.

But like the other gay candidates in this year's race, Waites said her decision to run for City Council isn't just a "gay thing."

"This is a humanitarian issue," she said. "It's about the betterment of Atlanta."

Overall themes of her campaign will include the need for greater visibility of political officials in Atlanta, as well as getting more young voters ages 18-24 involved with the political process, Waites said.

More specific issues on Waites' platform include helping to end racial profiling in Atlanta, getting the City Council to lobby the state legislature for a stronger hate crimes law that includes protected categories, and helping find a solution to Atlanta's ongoing debate over bar hours.

If elected, Waites said she would propose a compromise in which bars located away from residential areas could stay open until the current closing time of 4 a.m., while bars in residential areas would have to close at 2 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, although they could stay open until 4 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights.

A similar compromise that would have closed bars in residential areas every night at 2 a.m. failed to pass the City Council earlier this year. Waites said she believes she has what it takes to bring the two sides of the debate together.

"I am an occasional club-goer... and being an entrepreneur, I understand how devastating it would be for a club to close at 2 a.m. However as a resident, I have mixed feelings," Waites said. "I think compromise is the issue."

Waites, currently a self-employed mortgage broker, has also worked as a consultant and as an assistant in the City of Atlanta's finance department.

Among her community activities, she lists volunteering for the Atlanta Gay Pride celebration in 1999, serving as mentor with the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, working with the Women's International Trade Association, and donating to AID Atlanta.

Waites said she plans to seek endorsements from both Georgia Equality, the statewide gay political group, and the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, a national group that endorses qualified gay candidates around the country.

Mortgage broker Sean Waites said her campaign for City Council, if successful, could send a 'powerful message to African-American lesbians in Atlanta.'

Both groups may have their hands full evaluating this year's Atlanta City Council races.

Atlanta City Council member Cathy Woolard, currently the City Council's only openly gay member, is running for City Council president. Two openly gay candidates, real estate agent Anne Fauver and attorney Steve Koval, are vying for Woolard's District 6 seat.

Bev McMahon, owner of the gay bar Rarity, has also announced her plans to run for the At-Large Post 2 seat, which is currently held by Council member Julia Emmons.

ACTION! info

Sean Waites for City Council Committee
P.O. Box 38263
Atlanta, GA 30334
phone: 404-659-3558
e-mail: seanwaites@hotmail.com

Council member Mable Thomas
55 Trinity Ave. S.W. Suite 2900
Atlanta, GA 30335
phone: 404-330-6052
e-mail: mthomas@ci.atlanta.ga.us

AIDS Quilt to move to Atlanta from San Francisco

Move stirs controversy among some SF activists, but excitement about educational possibilities here

by TAMSEN LOVE

ATLANTA—Atlanta may soon be home to the AIDS Memorial Quilt, a prominent symbol of the struggle against AIDS that consists of more than 44,000 panels dedicated to individuals who died of the disease.

The NAMES Project Foundation has announced plans to move the 50-ton quilt to Atlanta from San Francisco, where it has been stored since it was begun in 1987.

Leaders with the foundation described the move as largely a financial decision, but reactions to the plan have reached much deeper. Some activists in San Francisco said they feel betrayed and angry about the quilt leaving. A few have suggested they might try to steal panels in order to keep them in San Francisco.

Meanwhile, AIDS groups in Atlanta expressed hope that they could use the quilt to aid in education efforts, especially for minorities and youth.

"I can get into middle schools with the quilt, where I can't get in if I just call up and say, 'Hi, I'm Tony from AID Atlanta and I have a program to give at your school,'" said Tony Braswell, executive director of AID Atlanta, the city's largest AIDS service organization.

"The quilt is not being used to its fullest capacity if it functions only as a memorial," Braswell said.

The NAMES Project began considering moving more than two years ago because of skyrocketing real estate costs in San Francisco and the fact that its current lease is unlikely to be renewed when it expires in March 2003, said Edward Gatta, board president.

Recently, the board voted to move the NAMES Project's national office to Washington, D.C., where it will be close to policy makers and other HIV/AIDS organizations. The board identified Atlanta as an ideal location to store the quilt because it is a major shipping hub with affordable warehouse space and a diverse population, Gatta said.

The foundation is currently negotiating with its landlord in San Francisco to terminate its lease early. If those negotiations are successful, the quilt could come to Atlanta as early as April 1, he said.

In addition to financial considerations, Gatta said the NAMES Project board hopes the move will enable the group to utilize the quilt more effectively for AIDS education and prevention, by allowing it to collaborate with other HIV/AIDS organizations and institutions like the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

"It is no longer realistic to have the quilt sitting on shelves in San Francisco," he said. "We have something we can use to assist others."

NAMES Project leaders also hope that the move will help them reach minority and other communities more effectively, Gatta said.

"Atlanta is the new face of AIDS," Braswell agreed. "The move will give the NAMES Project the opportunity to work in that milieu."

Donato Clarke, systems analyst at AIDS Education & Services for Minorities, saidhe does not know if or how his organization will be able to use the quilt directly in its education and prevention programs.

Some in San Francisco oppose the move.

"It just really upsets me that I've done all this work for my friends to be remembered here in San Francisco, and they're taking it away," Felicia Elizondo, a transgendered woman who has made dozens of quilt panels, told the Associated Press.

Gatta said the NAMES Project is considering a "permanent presence" in San Francisco after the move.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt could move to Atlanta as early as April, although displays will continue around the country.

INFO

NAMES Project Foundation
310 Townsend St.,
Suite 310
San Francisco, CA 94107
phone: 415-882-5500
Web: www.aidsquilt.org

Southside home to Atlanta's next gay neighborhoods

East Point, West End among up-and-coming areas for gay buyers

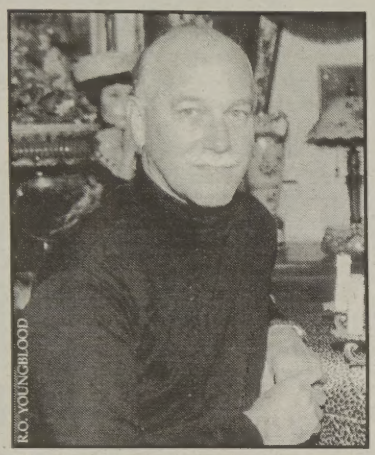
by ERIC ERICKSON

ATLANTA—As the cost of living rises in Midtown and Candler Park, many gay men and lesbians are looking for the next place to call home. One Atlanta area many people are finding fits both their lifestyle and their pocketbooks is East Point, just south of Hartsfield Airport.

"There's a perception here that it's not what everybody [expects] it to be," says openly gay East Point City Council member Bobby Carnes. An East Point resident for six years, Carnes owns East Point Antiques and was elected to the City Council a year ago, with three more years left in his term.

"It's a charming town, a clean town, the services are better out here," he said. "Once people get out here and they see what's available here and what the community's really about, the city sells itself."

The city of East Point consistently works on and follows a master plan, in hopes of making the community attractive to everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, Carnes said. The plan appears to be working for the entire city, simultaneously attracting many gay men and lesbians to the area.



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When East Point resident and business owner Bobby Carnes ran for City Council in 1999, his opponent tried to use his sexual orientation against him. But Carnes said he now feels accepted both in East Point and as a member of the City Council.

Five years ago, gay activists in the area began Family & Friends, an organization made up gay and gay-friendly East Point neighbors. When they marched in their first Atlanta Gay Pride parade five years ago, they had 12 members pounding the pavement on the parade route. In the 2000 parade, they were 80 members strong, including Carnes and East Point's other openly gay City Council member, Alex Prince.

Carnes said he believes East Point is an obvious option for gay people looking to move to a new community with a gay-friendly attitude.

"The potential is here. We're working very hard on the City Council developing and revitalizing the downtown to give the citizens, not just the gay community, someplace to live and shop," he said. "We're all in this together, but if you came down here, you don't only see straight couples, but gay couples."

Carnes said the rest of the East Point City Council has been very receptive to new ideas from both of the openly gay members. "It was just that someone had to step forward and say this is what we need to do," he said.

Openly gay Atlanta real estate agent Chris Carroll works with many gay clients and agreed that East Point is attracting many new neighbors, including gay men and lesbians. However, East Point's popularity may already be steering the area in the direction of Midtown and Candler Park.

"In East Point, the percentages are going up quickly. A house worth $70,000 two years ago is now worth twice that," said Carroll, who's excited about the migration to Atlanta's Southside.

"I think it's good because the Southside never had much investment in it. That's an entry market where people can still participate who are thinking about a neighborhood with a single family home," she said.

Carroll and Melody Unger, another Atlanta real estate agent, listed East Atlanta Village and Kirkwood as two other areas making their mark as gay-friendly neighborhoods. But both neighborhoods are already well into their make-overs, making them out of reach for some buyers.

Unger predicted another South Atlanta neighborhood, the West End area located near Grant Park, as the next big attraction for many of her gay and lesbian clients.

"There are a lot of young professionals looking in that area," she said. "Wonderful, old houses, old streets, a lot of character and charm—a lot of the same things Candler Park, Lake Claire and Grant Park [areas already popular with gays] have."

And just because some of the rainbow flags are moving out of Midtown doesn't mean the entire gay community is going with them. In fact, Carroll said she believes there's plenty of pride to go around the entire city.

"To say the gay influence is limited to a couple of neighborhoods in town is off base," she said. "It's affected neighborhoods around the city."

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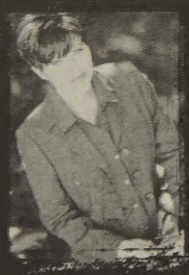

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Custody case questions civil union

➢ Continued from Page 1

At press time, the interpretation remained disputed, and Freer remained unable to see or even talk with her children.

Neither Slade nor Salmon responded to interview requests.

Freer and Burns divorced in Calhoun County, Ala., in 1995. Burns received custody of the children, while Freer was awarded visitation. Freer, who now lives in Atlanta, said she moved to Rome, Ga., when her ex-husband did, "to be near my children."

But when Burns began denying her visitation, Freer said she charged him with contempt, bringing the case into Floyd County courts and resulting in the consent order forbidding visits around unmarried partners.

"I was not represented well by my former attorney who actually advised me to lie about my sexual orientation if I ever wanted to see my children again," Freer said, explaining why she did not challenge the order at the time. "I was not advised how to voice my disagreement."

Freer said the boys visited her and Debra in their home, got along well with Debra, and understood the couple's relationship.

"I have no secrets from my children and upon telling them of our marriage, they were happy for us," she said.

Appeal could have broad effects

Lanser, Freer's attorney, said he plans to challenge Salmon's ruling, first on the appeals court level, and then to the Georgia Supreme Court if necessary.

Lanser said he will argue that Georgia's law banning recognition of same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, and Freer's family should be protected under privacy rights guaranteed in the state constitution.

"I don't know how else to frame it other than frankly," he said. "Either [civil unions] are marriages or they are not, and the issue needs to be resolved. I am convinced what they did in Vermont counts in Georgia."

The case is likely to attract attention from gay rights attorneys around the country, who have been watching to see how Vermont's civil unions will be recognized in other states.

Freer's challenge may be the first in the country to argue for recognition of a civil union in the context of child visitation, said attorney Evan Wolfson, national marriage project director for the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, and Mary Bonato, an attorney with Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders who worked on the Vermont case that prompted the civil unions law.

"The question is whether the state of Georgia is going to discriminate against this legally recognized, seriously committed family relationship," Wolfson said. "I'm not aware of any case as dramatic as this one in highlighting the way in which these committed relationships will indeed come into play."

Gerry Weber, legal director for the Georgia ACLU, represented Jean Anne Vawter in her unsuccessful attempt to overturn a similar visitation rule. He said he has talked with Freer's attorney, and the ACLU will likely get involved in the case if an appeal is granted.

While the Floyd County judge ruled the ban on unmarried partners was "straightforward and gender neutral," both Wolfson and Weber said such policies automatically discriminate against gay families.

Heterosexual couples could remedy such a situation by getting married, but gay couples like the Freers can't marry, and the judge ruled their civil union wasn't enough, Weber said.

"The judge is essentially using a judicial procedure to break up a family, and giving that family no option to make their relationship permissible," he said.

OBITUARY

Maxime Chabot

Maxime Chabot, 34, of Atlanta died after a short illness on Jan. 29 in Quebec City, Canada. The cause of death was a viral brain infection, according to Terry Bailey, Chabot's life partner.

A manager at Rocky's Brick Oven Pizzaria since 1995, Chabot developed a loyal customer following due to his "genuine and sparkling personality," Bailey said.

In addition to collecting antiques, "Max was also an avid collector of Princess Diana memorabilia and amassed one of the larger collections in the U.S.," Bailey said.

Survivors include Bailey; mother, Mercedes Gagnon; sisters Linda Chabot, Francois Chabot and Julie Barrette; brother, Jules Chabot; and brother-in-law Bernard Barrette, all of Quebec City, Canada.

Friends celebrated Chabot's life on Feb. 8 at Rocky's with a memorial service.

The family asked that Chabot be remembered with a donation to your favorite charity.

atlanta/ga. news

by ERIN O'BRIANT

Georgia Baptists may cut funds to gay-inclusive Atlanta group

ATLANTA—The Georgia Baptist Convention will vote March 13 on whether to cut off funding to the Atlanta Baptist Association. The punitive measure is a response to the Atlanta Baptist Association's Jan. 30 decision not to oust two gay-friendly Atlanta churches, Virginia-Highland Baptist and Oakhurst Baptist. "The administration committee of the GBC is going to recommend to the executive committee that we cease funding projects with the Atlanta Baptist Association," GBC president Rev. William Rickett said. "As a result, the North American Mission Board made a statement giving their support. We do not want to stop supporting missions, but this concerns Baptists all across our convention."

NAMB pays $62,000 yearly for six missionaries in the Atlanta association and an additional $15,000 in NAMB funds go towards church planters, according to a Baptist Press statement. Rev. Joel Harrison, ABA executive director, told the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* his association was budgeted to receive $60,000 for hunger relief from the GBC and NAMB combined in 2001.

Rickett said he expects the measure cutting off funding to pass "because as Georgia Baptists we've always tried to stand where scripture stands on issues." ABA leaders have said the group made its decision to retain the two gay-friendly congregations not because it condones homosexuality, but because it supports the right of individual churches to interpret scripture. "We believe in that, but we also believe there are certain things that hold us together as Baptists," Rickett said.

Rickett suggested that the ABA might reverse its decision in light of the GBC's disapproval. "I do understand that the Atlanta Baptist Association is re-evaluating what they believe about the autonomy of local churches," said Rickett. "There's also the possibility of forming a new association and the possibility that some churches that disagree so strongly may join other associations around them." He said he "wouldn't be surprised" if Rehoboth Baptist Church in Tucker and Pine Lake Baptist Church disassociate from the ABA. Atlanta Baptist Association leaders could not be reached for comment.

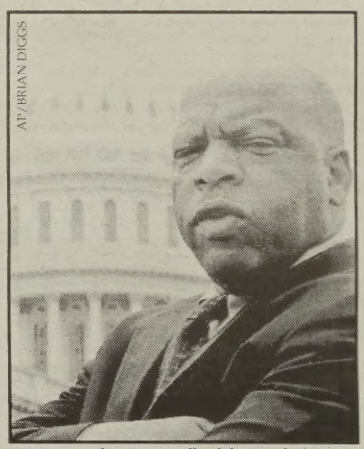
ACTION!info

Atlanta Baptist Association
3070 Mercer University Dr.
Atlanta, GA 30341
770-455-4870

Georgia Baptist Convention
2930 Flowers Rd. South
Atlanta, GA 30341
770-455-0404

Civil rights legend schedules upcoming visit to Charis Books & More

ATLANTA—Rep. John Lewis (D-Ga.), a civil rights hero and outspoken supporter of gay and lesbian rights, will sign copies of his book "Walking with the Wind" at Charis Books & More Feb. 21 as part of the store's celebration of Black History Month. "We were trying to get a program to celebrate [Black History Month] and I thought, 'Who else would be better than the Hon. John Lewis?'" said Charis staff member Cherie Frazier, who coordinated the free event. Lewis will discuss the politics of marriage in the black community, a topic he covers in his book, she said. Lewis has been a friend to the feminist bookstore for many years. "He's been here several times in the past and we've been part of several projects that he's been involved in," said Frazier.


AP/BRIAN DIGGS

U.S. Rep. John Lewis will celebrate Black History Month at Charis on Feb. 21.

INFO

Rep. John Lewis
Feb. 21, 7 p.m.
Charis Books and More
1189 Euclid Ave. NE
404-524-0304

Tickets nearly sold out for Project Open Hand's Masquerade

ATLANTA—There are only 80 seats—that's 40 tickets—still available for the annual Masquerade benefit for Project Open Hand. Grammy-winning jazz singer and pianist Diane Schuur will provide entertainment. Guests will also enjoy an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, and dinner. Two-person tickets are available for $350, $500, and $1,000. Attendees who purchase the $1,000 tickets will be treated to preferred seating and a chance to meet Schuur at a private reception before the show. Project Open Hand Communications Manager Erin McAlister said the dinner, to be catered by Tony Conway of Legendary Events, is "to die for." Two David Yurman watches have been donated by Mednikow Jewelers. The watches, worth $10,000 each, will be raffled off at the benefit.

INFO

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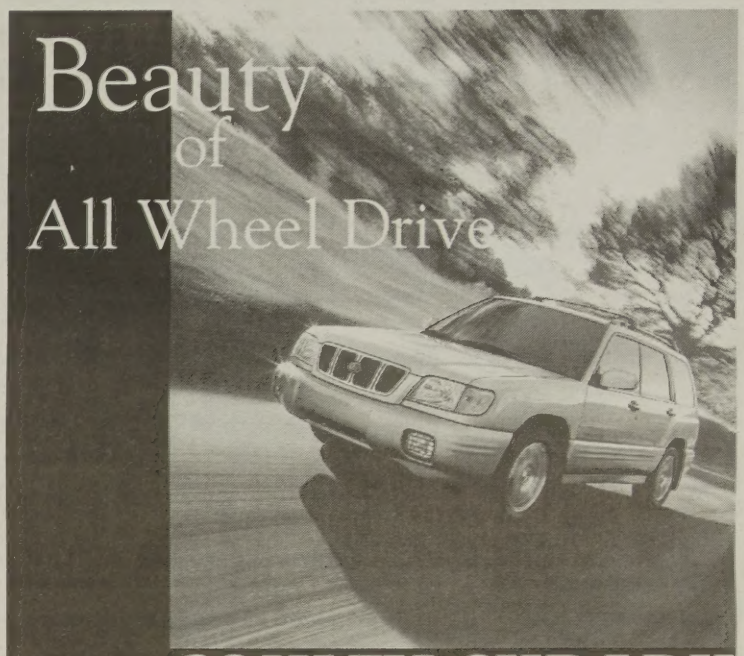

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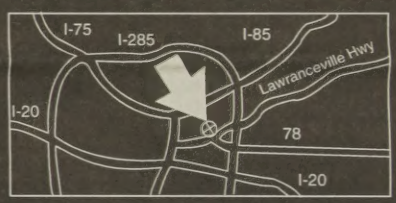

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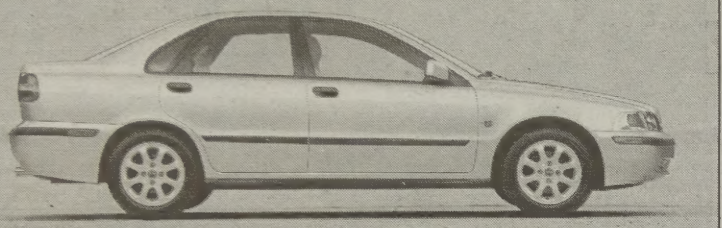

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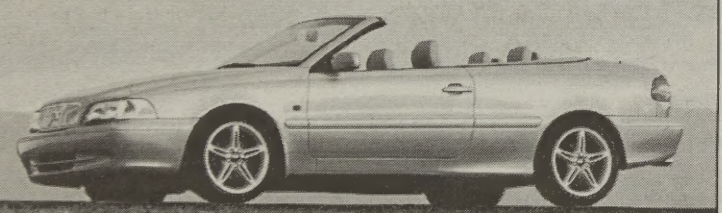

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athens

saturday, feb. 17

GLBT Teen support group. 2 pm. Presbyterian Student Center. 706-546-4611 or stock@negia.net

monday, feb. 19

Lambda Alliance. 7 pm. UGA's GLBT student organization. Room 142 of Tate Student Center. No meetings during breaks or finals weeks. jcraig@arches.uga.edu

atlanta

thursday, feb. 15

Atlanta Executive Network. 404-724-9008

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. Swim practice. 8:30 pm. 404-286-6131

Black & White Men Together. 7:30 pm. Dine out. 404-892-BWMT

Bridge Lessons. 10 am, 7 pm. Atlanta Bridge Center. Peggy Hayslip, 770-300-9895

Community Empowerment Lunch. Noon-1 pm. Bill Bernitt discusses Manifest Love. Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, Piedmont at 10th. 404-607-0082

GLBT Students Alliance of GSU Meeting. 10 am. Room 206, University Center. aspern@mindspring.com

Men's Discussion Group. 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500

People of Color Community Network. 7-9 pm. In the Life Atlanta. Indigo Arts Gallery & Playhouse, 1850 DeKalb Ave. 404-378-7703

Women of West ATL/GA. Regular monthly get-together. Call for info. 770-443-8796

Youth Pride. Drop-in, 4:30-10 pm. Boy Talk (ages 13-18), 8-10 pm. Womyn's Group (ages 13-24), 8:30-10 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

friday, feb. 16

All Women's Open Mic Night. 8 pm. Charis Books. 404-524-0304

Atlanta Freedom Marching Band. 7 pm. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. 404-622-0666

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. Ladies Night Swim. Water Polo/Swim Practice, 7:30 pm. 404-286-6131

Hotlanta Volleyball Association. Evenings. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30 pm-12 am. Community Social (ages 13-24), 7:30 pm-midnight. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

saturday, feb. 17

Atlanta Opera Club. 5 pm. For opera buffs, from the curious to the connoisseur. David Rogers 404-237-4218

Atlanta Team Tennis Association Open Play. 2-6 pm. Social tennis for players at all levels. Piedmont Park. 770-621-2699

Front Runners. Meet at 8 am in parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

Georgia Field Hockey Association Women's League. 9 am-noon. All skill levels welcome. Nori, 770-985-4903

Les Amies. Social club for African-American lesbians over 50. 404-351-3468

Zacchaeus Society. 5 pm. Covered dish. Confidential outreach to gay and straight citizens of Rockdale and Newton counties. Call for location. 404-522-1444

sunday, feb. 18

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 3 pm Recruitment Party at Burkharts on Piedmont. 11 am. Water Polo/Swim Practice. Ga Tech Aquatic Center. 404-286-6131

Ballroom Dance Lessons. 2 pm. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, 1911 Cliff Valley Way. 404-876-3950

Dog Hikers of GA. 10 am. All hikers with or without dogs welcome. 770-992-2362.

Mountain Family Network. Dinners & potlucks for gays who live or weekend in the North GA mountains. 706-864-3229

PFLAG Atlanta. 2:30 pm. Call for location. 404-875-9440

monday, feb. 19

Black and White Men Together. 7:30 pm. Video night. "Queer as Folk" episodes. 404-892-BWMT

Genesis. 7 pm. Support group for married & divorced men addressing their sexual orientation. St. Mark United Methodist Church, 5th & Peachtree St. Pat, 404-233-2841

tuesday, feb. 20

Atlanta Rainbow Trout. 8:30 pm. Swim practice. 404-286-6131

BINature. 7-9 pm. Bisexual discussion and support group for bisexuals and bi-friendlies. First Existentialist Congregation, 470 Candler Park Dr. Voluntary donation. 404-256-8992

Front Runners Run/Walk. 6:30 pm. Meet at the new CVS shopping center at the northwest corner of Commerce Drive and Ponce De Leon Ave, Decatur. 770-621-5007

Gay/Lesbian Public Safety Task Force. 7 pm. City Council's panel meets at City Hall. 404-330-6504

Hotlanta Volleyball Association. 7-10 pm. Open play for all levels. 770-621-5062

Lambda Book Discussion Group. 7:30 pm. Barnes & Noble, 2900 Peachtree Rd. 404-261-7747

Women's Discussion Group. 7 pm. Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Center, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd. 404-523-7500.

Youth Pride. Drop-in, 4:30-10 pm. Gender-Bender, 8-10 pm. Youth Pride. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

wednesday, feb. 21

Front Runners 6:30 pm. Meet at parking lot behind Piedmont Park tennis courts. 770-621-5007

Refuse & Resist. 7:30 pm. Inclusive coalition unites all opposed to right-wing agenda. 404-239-8054

Volunteer Meeting. 4-7 pm. Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund. 1447 Peachtree St, Ste 1004. 404-897-1880

YouthPride. Drop-in, 4:30-10 pm. Teen support group (ages 13-18), 6-7:30 pm. Youth Council, 7:30-8:30 pm. **Young adult discussion group** (ages 18-24), 8:30-10 pm. 302 E. Howard Ave. 404-378-6175

macon

friday, feb. 16

CCAN Potluck Luncheons. Noon. Bring a covered dish to share. Diversity House Project, 2020 Ingleside Ave. Free.

Lambda AA Support Group. 7 pm. free. Rikki, 912-742-0134

monday, feb. 19

Macon Pride Festival Meeting. 7 pm. Open to the public. locations listed on website: http://onmacon.com/pride/macon/meetings.htm.

tuesday, feb. 20

REACH OUT Breast Cancer Support Group. Third Tuesday 7 pm. Focal Point Women, 4075 Elnora Dr. All sexualities welcome. Free. 912-474-0000

wednesday, feb.21

AIDS Support Group. 6 pm. Diversity House Project, 2020 Ingleside Ave. open to those living with HIV/AIDS, their family and friends.

savannah

thursday, feb. 15

HIV+ Substance Abuse. 5:30 pm. Phoenix Place. 912-231-0123

Project Azuka. 9 am. Women's HIV-positve support group. Pandora Singleton, 912-233-6733

sunday, feb. 18

Any Lengths Group AA. 7 pm. Recovery Place. 912-233-4255

Friends & Company. 6 pm. AMF Victory Lanes. 912-354-0658

monday, feb. 19

Bowling League. 9 pm. For single lesbians and gay men. AmF Savannah Lanes, 115 Tibet Avenue, $10/week. Trey or Trish, 912-925-0320

CASE. HIV/AIDS support group. Richard Pfister, 912-659-AIDS

Phoenix Place. 7 pm. HIV/AIDS Support. 912-231-0123

wednesday, feb. 21

"Not For Gays Only" AA. 8 pm. First City Network office. 912-233-4255

Phoenix Place. 6 pm. HIV/AIDS Support. 912-231-0123

atlanta/across ga.organizations

To add a listing, e-mail calendar@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 34, or fax to 404-876-2709.

AIDS Organizations

ATLANTA

AID Atlanta–404-870-7700. HIV/AIDS direct services, education, volunteer programs, early care clinic, and anonymous HIV testing. Web site: www.aidatlanta.org

AIDS Education/Svcs for Minorities–POB 87277, Atl, 30337, 404-753-2900, 44-753-7733vm–a certified nonprofit, community-based service organization which provides transitional housing, education outreach & case management to African-American men living w/ HIV/AIDS.

AID Gwinnett–POB 884 Lawrenceville, GATRY TO PITCH THE MR the HIV/AIDS epidemic through advocacy, education, & collaboration w/ other agencies. PWA support group meets every Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at AIDGwinnett, 725 Scenic Highway, Lawrenceville, Ga. 30046

AIDS Hotline for Women–404-888-9991

AIDS/HIV Drug Clinical Trials Info. National Institutes of Health. 1-800-243-7644

AIDS Info Line–404-876-9944 (Atlanta); 1-800-551-2728

AIDS Legal Project–404-614-3969–free legal services in civil matters to low income persons living w/ HIV/AIDS.

AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (ARCA)–404-876-2317

AIDS & Substance Abuse Speakers Network–770-977-7797

AIDS Survival Project (formerly Atlanta NAPWA)–404-874-7926 (voice); 872-1192 (fax)–diverse people living w/ HIV united to promote the education & self-empowerment of HIV-affected individuals.

AIDS Treatment Initiatives–404-874-4845, 159 Ralph McGill Blvd, Ste. 510, or fax 404-874-9320–provides access to experimental, alternative & complimentary medical treatments for people living w/ HIV.

Absolutely Positive+–A mental health support service for both affected and infected individuals in N. Fulton County (Roswell). Day programs, individual and group support, social events!–404-642-6646

Atlanta Gay Center Clinic–67 12th St.–404-876-5372 –Anonymous HIV testing; confidential screening of other sexually transmitted diseases; complete pretest & post-test counseling. Mon-Thurs eve., 5:30-9:30pm.

Atlanta Harm Reduction Coalition–404-526-9222

Atlanta Interfaith AIDS Network–404-874-8686

Atlanta Lesbian AIDS Project–POB 5409, Atlanta 30307

Brothers Back 2 Back–770-593-5805–POB 11366, Atlanta 30310–African-American HIV/AIDS support group.

Chapel Hill AIDS Related Ministries (CHARM)–404-243-5020

Support groups for the HIV infected & affected.

Common Ground–874-6425–new ways of finding safe places for people infected w/ & affected by HIV/AIDS.

First MCC AIDS Ministry–404-325-4143

Fulton County Health Dept.–404-730-1410–99 Butler St., SE Atl., 30303. STD/HIV/AIDS services for women and men, including testing, treatment, support groups & dental care.

Ga. AIDS Therapy Information Network–1-800-551-2728

Grady Memorial Hospital Infectious Disease Program–341 Ponce de Leon Ave., Atlanta 30308, 404-616-2440

Haven House at Midtown Inc.–A full service health-care provider, including hospice–404-874-8313

Heal Atlanta–770-908-6164 vm. An AIDS support/information group that rejects the HIV=AIDS hypothesis and the antiviral approach to recovery from AIDS.

Home But Not Alone–1745 Peachtree Rd., NE Atlanta, GA 30309–404-875-7881 Ext. 27 or 54

Integrated Care Program–Case management, primary health care services and affordable housing. 404-635-9144

Jerusalem House–404-527-7627

The Living AIDS Memorial Park Project–404-876-0105

The Names Project-Atlanta–404-325-4143 POB 1018 Atl., GA 30301—atlnames@aol.com

Outreach, Inc.– 3030 Campbellton Rd. Atl. 30311–404- 346-3922 or 800- 441-2437– the 1st African-American HIV/AIDS & substance abuse svc. agcy. in GA & the oldest in the South.

Pets Are Loving Support (P.A.L.S.)–404-876-PALS

Portsbridge–Residential hospice care for PWA(s)–770-936-9546

Positive Impact–404-589-9040–no-cost counseling for people affected by HIV w/ low incomes. Call to receive services or to volunteer.

Positive Outlook, formerly P.O.O.H.–404-292-7451–A social group for HIV+ gay men.

Pregnancy Prevention–770-297-7755 POB 6594, Gainesville, GA. 30504, http://members.tripod.com/clasico2000/

Project Inform–415-558-8669, www.projinf.org

Project Open Hand Atlanta–404-872-8089–home delivered meals for people w/ AIDS-related illnesses. 176 Ottley Dr. NE Atl., GA 30324-3925

Sisterlove, Inc.–404-753-7733 (voice); or 404-753-1500 (fax)–nonprofit organization that provides support services to HIV+ women & HIV/safer sex education to the community.

ATHENS

AIDS Coalition of Northeast GA–706-542-AIDS; fax 706-549-2730. Provides support services to PWAs, their families & friends, & community education & awareness. Open Mon-Fri 10-4. e-mail: acng@arches.uga.edu. www.uga.edu/~acng

MACON

CCAN (Central City AIDS Network)—912-750-8080 or 800-374-2437. fax 912-750-1032. Provides support, education, and housing services for those affected by HIV. www.mindspring.com/~rainbow

SAVANNAH

CASE Project—912-659-AIDS. AIDS support services and advocacy. 921 Abercorn St., Ste. 101.

HIV/AIDS Legal Project—912-651-2180. Free Legal Services to HIV positive people who meet income guielines. 10 Whitaker St.

HIV Services—912-356-2953. Anonymous HIV testing, AIDS case management, advocacy services. Chatham County Health Center., 2011 Eisenhower Dr.

Hospice Savannah, Inc.—912-355-2289. Homecare and hospice house, grief support services. 1352 Eisenhower Dr.

PFLAG—800-484-1913 pin 5353. Parents, Friends & Families of Lesbians and Gays.

Phoenix Place—912-231-0123. HIV housing and support.

Direct Action/Political

ATLANTA

9 to 5 Job Survival Hotline offers free, confidential information and referrals on workplace rights, including factsheets on discrimination based on sexual orientation. 1-800-522-0925

ACLU/Lesbian & Gay Chapter–142 Mitchell St., Ste. 301, Atl., 30303, 404-523-5398–legal assist. or referral in cases where the denial of rights is due to the victim's sexual orientation.

American United for Separation of Church & State-Atlanta Chapter–POB 79174 Atl., GA 30357– 404-607-0660–tallulah@mindspring.com/~tallulah/au/

Atlanta Greens, Green Party USA, Lesbian-Gay-Bi-Queer Caucus–770-368-7137

Cobb Citizens Coalition–POB 965336, Marietta 30066, 770-677-9850–Education, positive community & political outreach efforts on human rights (primarily sexual orientation) issues.

FORM Georgia–Gay marriage group. formga@aol.com (local)-404-315-1399–FORM, POB 95354, Atl., GA 30347, FORM (national) 227 Chelsea St., E. Boston, MA 02128–617-569-9733, FORMBOSTON@aol.com

Georgia Advocates for Battered Women & Children/Lesbian Task Force–404-524-3847, or toll-free 1-800-643-1212; 250 GA Ave. SE, Rm. 365, Atl. 30312–a statewide coalition working to end the violence against women & children.

Georgia Equality Project–POB 78351, Atl. 30357-2351– 404-872-3600 vm

Georgia Log Cabin Republicans–770-521-8315; www.lcrga.com

Georgia Stonewall Democrats–Gareth Fenley, 404-978-1262 ext. 2201

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) Southern field office, 1447 Peachtree St. NE., ste. 1004, Atlanta, GA. 30309, 404-815-0551, fax 404-815-1739, e-mail glsensouth@glsen.org

Hate Crimes Hot Line–(877) STOP HATE

Human Rights Campaign–Atlanta–POB 78401, Atl 30357, 770-840-6969 (vm)

LesBiGay Connection–POB 56701, Macon, GA 31208-6701— 912-742-2437

Lesbian Avengers–770-798-7742

Libertarian Party of Georgia–Politically homeless? Are you an economic conservative and social liberal? For an informative brochure call 404-888-9468

National Organization for Women–404-875-0176

National Organization for Women/Georgia–404-378-7186

Out Front–POB 12369, Atlanta 30355

Outright Libertarians-An organization of GLBT Libertarians. 2354 Shallowford Rd., NE. 678-478-4896, Outright@mindspring.com, www.OutrightUSA.org

REFUSE & RESIST!/ATL-Part of a national anti-repression organization. "It's All One Attack!"–404-239-8054

Republicans for Individual Freedoms–PO 13162, Atl, GA 30324, 404-239-1679–gay republicans fighting "homophobia" in Republican party & fighting Republiphobia" in the gay community.

Socialist Worker's Party–404-724-9759–803 Peachtree St. NE Atlanta, 30308

Straight But Not Narrow–POB 71202, Marietta 30007. 770-242-2256 –Straight people working in coalition w/ l/g/b/t people. We believe in fairness & equality & the power to make positive change. Call for info on volunteer opportunities.

Arts/Entertainment/Culture

ATLANTA

African Ancestresses Book Club–Reading African and diasporic female authors only. For serious, committed, matured feminists of color. POB 33101, Decatur, GA 30033

Amethyst–Literary Magazine. Seeks stories, poems, essays, visual artwork. Bi-annual (circ.5,000). 1083 Austin Ave NE, Atl., GA 30307. 404-523-4600.

Art Aficionados–A gay/lesbian/bi artists, photographers, writers, social, networking, promotional organization. For information, call 404-876-2542, emcsqared@compuserve.com www.mall-web.com/den-art-co

Atlanta Feminist Women's Chorus–770-438-5823–a non-auditioned chorus celebrating strength & diversity in women through music.

Atlanta Freedom Marching Band–G/L/B/T band. All instruments and auxiliary members needed. For rehearsal location, call 404-622-0666 or visit www.lambda.net\~afmb.

Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Arts Festival–POB 170093 Atl., 30317–Annual festival in support of our community. Call 404-378-0133.

Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus–An auditioned chorus representing our community through excellence in male choral music. 1379 Tullie Rd., NE. Ste. 200. 404-320-1030

Atlanta Lesbian & Gay History Thing–POB 7032, Atl 30357, 404-377-5730–preserves, promotes, & protects lesbian & gay history & culture.

Atlanta Rainbow Ensemble– 404-633-9419

Funny...That Way Theatre Company–731 Highland Ave., Studio B, Atl., GA 30312. 404-893-3344.

Keyhole Entertainment, Inc.–Producers of annual AIDS benefit "Peepshow" for the Grady Adolescent AIDS program & other Atlanta events. –Contact Chris Whitmire at 770-634-1818

Southeastern Arts, Media & Education Project, Inc- 404-733-6112– 884 Monroe Dr. NE, Atl. 30308

Southern Country Atlanta–770-908-7480

Think It's Not When It Is...-A theater company promoting positive lesbian and gay images in the media. 770-808-3984

Professional

ATLANTA

American Express GLOBE–770-417-3347–An employee network.

Atlanta Executive Network (AEN)–POB 77267 Atl. 30357-1267– 404-724-9008–Atlanta's largest business & professional group. 6pm third Thursday. Members $10. Guests $20.

Bar Owner's Assn–POB 15114, Atl. 30333-0114

CDC/ATSDR GLOBE–Centers for Disease Control gay, lesbian or bisexual employees group. (404) 639-5173 or 404-639-2058

Community Network for Counseling Psychology & Social Work–770-596-0109

Fourth Tuesday–A lesbian social and networking assoc. Meets monthly. 770-662-4353

Gay/Lesbian Postal Employees Network (G/L PEN)–POB 580397, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0397

GA Association of Physicians for Human Rights (GAPHR)–404-231-2251

Georgia Group of Groups (GaGOG)–A coalition of L/G/B/T employee groups and supporters networking to provide council, info., resources, and support to its various member organizations and the community. Call Kirby Frank at 404-872-0252 kfrank@us.ibm.com

GLOBES–POB 7864, Athens, GA 30604–706-546-4611–Gay, lesbian, or bisexual employees & supporters at UGA for faculty, staff & graduate students.

Greater Atlanta Business Coalition–Promotes & encourages economic development & growth of businesses in the lesbian & gay community. 404-377-4258

Greater Atlanta Federal GLOBE–An association for gay, lesbian, bisexual federal employees–404-524-1067

Eagle for IBM Employees–Diversity Network Group for IBM employees with the mission to create a safe and open environment for l/g/b/t employees. Call Kirby Frank at 404-872-0252 kfrank@us.ibm.com

League Atlanta, Inc.–POB 7784, Atl.GA 30357–404-810-7916 –Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay & Transgendered United Employees at AT&T –an educational support group for active and retired employees at AT&T.

National Gay Pilots Association–POB 27542, Washington, D.C. 20038-7542, 703-660-3852

Stonewall Bar Association of Georgia, Inc.–Georgia's voice for gay, lesbian & bi attorneys & legal professionals–POB 7708, Atl., GA 30357–404-621-4663

TurnOut–A professional, social and support network for L/B/G/T employees of Turner Broadcasting. 404-885-4799

Womyn In the North Suburbs (WINS)-A social group for professional womyn in the northern suburbs, but all women welcome. 770-350-0485

Trinity United Methodist Church–404-659-6236–265 Washington St., by Atlanta City Hall—A diverse congregation welcoming all to ministries of reconciliation & justice.

Unitarian Universalist Congr. of Atlanta–1911 Cliff Valley Way, NE–404-634-5134. Childcare and childrens religious education provided.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens–780 Timothy Rd., Athens–706-546-7914

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marietta–377 Henry Dr. –770-528-9542. Childcare and childrens religious education provided.

ATHENS

Our Hope Metropolitan Community Church-Atehna Room, Holiday Inn, 197 E. Broad St., Athens, 706-202-3723. E-Mail ourhope@gateway.net.

COLUMBUS

Family of God MCC–Columbus, GA–706-321-9202

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birthdays

Happy birthday to Atlanta Freedom Marching Band member **Dale A.** on Feb. 16.

"The Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus wishes a very happy birthday to its member **Ken M. Byers** (Baritone) on Feb. 19."

Happy birthday to Front Runners Atlanta member **Carol Homick** on Feb. 18.

'Vern Lewis recently returned from a 10-day spiritual retreat in Bali. Besides exploring the inner self, the California-based group visited Hindu temples, rice paddies and an artist colony.'

Happy birthday to *Southern Voice* theater critic Jim Farmer on Feb. 18.

pet of the week

Dewey is a year old, Golden-Chow mix and weighs 65 pounds. He's very playful and wants a large fenced yard, preferably with no children. He loves all people and most dogs and cats. Call Tori at 404-627-7447.

★★★

ATLANTA COMMUNITY NEWS

ATL City Council endorses Gay Games bid

by ANDY COLE

ATLANTA—The Atlanta City Council last week unanimously approved a resolution in support of Atlanta Games, Inc.'s effort to bring the 2006 Gay Games to the city.

The resolution is important in showing that the city is unified behind the effort to attract the Games, which could bring as many as a million visitors to the city, organizers said.

"If the Federation [of Gay Games] looks at everything that we are bringing to this, knowing that we have city support and support from the citizens of Atlanta will be very important," said Pam Hege, AGI media director.

Council member Cathy Woolard, who is openly gay, introduced the resolution. She also has been working on AGI's advisory board with co-chairs Ray Hom and Margie Archer.

"I am very excited about the Games," Woolard said. "It's a wonderful economic opportunity for the city, but also an opportunity for the gay community in Atlanta."

If Atlanta is chosen as the host for the 2006 Games—a decision which the Federation will make in November—the city's cooperation in securing venues and arranging transportation will be essential.

Woolard said that much of this would not directly involve the City Council, and would be arranged instead through the Atlanta Sports Council and the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau budget, and paid for through the city's hotel tax.

The next step in the bidding process will come in June or July, when the selection committee visits Atlanta to inspect venues, which organizers say would include Turner Field and the Georgia Dome.

City Council member Cathy Woolard called the Gay Games 'a wonderful economic opportunity for the city.'

The 2002 Gay Games take place in November in Sydney, Australia, bringing the quadrennial sporting and cultural event outside of North America for the second time since it began in San Francisco in 1982.

Atlanta bid once before for the Games, losing out to Amsterdam, host city of the 1998 Games which drew 800,000 visitors and 15,000 participants.

Other cities competing for the 2006 Games include Los Angeles, Chicago, and Montreal, Québec.

INFO

Atlanta Games, Inc.
1579-F Monroe Drive N.E.,
suite #610
Atlanta, Georgia 30324
404-577-GAME
www.atlantagames2006.org

Drinking? New group gets you and car home safely

by ANDY COLE

ATLANTA—A new project is underway in Atlanta to get drunk drivers off the streets—and it isn't being run by the police department.

The Designated Drivers Association of Atlanta is trying to "not give any one any excuse for driving drunk," according to Mike Rhyne, coordinator of the Georgia chapter of the national organization.

To do this, his association uses volunteers to pick up impaired drivers from participating restaurants and bars in Midtown and the Highlands, a number of which have a large gay clientele. But the truly innovative part of the service is that DDA volunteers, who work in pairs, also bring your car home.

The service—free to riders—is supported through donations and fees charged participating bars. Volunteers drive the cars, are given free non-alcoholic beverages at participating establishments and, according to Rhyne, typically make anywhere from $30 to $100 dollars in tips in a given night.

Establishments already participating include Vickery's, Smith's Old Bar, Nomenclature, Leopard Lounge and the Crescent Room. Several gay bars are considering signing up, Rhyne said.

INFO

Designated Drivers Association of Atlanta
1655 Peachtree St.,
suite 500
Atlanta, Ga. 30309
678-479-9997

southern VOICE

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___ Roommates

BUSINESS RATE $15:
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___ Employment-Part Time
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The Bible: A revisionist version

Horizon Theatre's presentation of 'The Bible: The Complete Word of God (Abridged)' pokes fun at religious institution

by JIM FARMER

Who knew that a slingshot was vital during the birth of Jesus? That many of the original 10 Commandments were rejected? And that the Easter Bunny himself played a role in The New Testament? That and other little-known "facts" comprise the comedic "The Bible: The Complete Word of God (Abridged)," now running at Horizon Theatre.

The spoof is written by the trio of Adam Long, Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor, who also penned the similar "The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged) and "The Complete History of America (Abridged)," both of which skewered their subjects.

"The Bible" is more of the silly same from the three, who have nicknamed themselves the Reduced Shakespeare Company (RSC). This time there are sight gags, wordplay, and even audience participation as the writers take on what they call "the greatest story ever accepted as fact."

Beginning in the Garden of Eden, the show spans both the Old Testament and New Testament. In the cast is Matt Johnson, who appears in a variety of drag roles, including the opening scene where he portrays Eve, attempting to hide her "female genitalia" with a fig leaf.

"I like to describe this show as a Robin Williams type-Sunday school class," says director Jeff Adler, who runs Horizon Theatre along with his wife Lisa Adler. "It takes a formidable text and pokes good-natured fun at it."

The three actors in the cast represent three different stances—Rob Cleveland's character is the King James point of view, Chris Ekholm presents his role in an Isaac Asimov manner, and Matt Johnson's character sees it from a child's eye, as an illustrated Bible book. Each feel their version is correct.

"It's vaudevillian," Cleveland said of the piece. "These aren't really plays, they are shows. But this one does have more of a storyline than the other two.

"We are all aware of the group's body of work and think this is the most cohesive of the three. It's better suited for an actor."

Indeed, Cleveland was in Theatrical Outfit's version of "The Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged)" a few years back and Ekholm was in Theatre in the Square's "The Complete History of America (Abridged)" last summer.

Johnson stars as all the female characters, including Mary. He even gives birth in the piece, which, surprisingly isn't the first time he's delivered onstage.

"I was in drag at a pageant in college. I also had a baby there, but nothing compares with the responsibility of giving birth to the son of God," he said.

He describes his central character, though, as the younger brother type, the low man on the totem pole. "But he can be a bitch when he has to," said Johnson.

He, along with the other actors, have been anxious to see the reaction from others. "Some church goers saw it last week and stayed around afterwards to talk about it," Johnson said.

Jeff Adler doesn't feel that "The Bible" is bound to cause any serious controversy. "Yes, there is always someone who might get offended, but if you can't laugh at this, maybe you're a bit of a stuffed shirt," he said.

Horizon Theatre has a history of gay-themed productions, such as "The Food Chain" and "Cupid's Bones." "We look for a balance. We want to find and develop new talent and we would be remiss if we didn't look at gay productions," Adler said .

More notoriously, Horizon recently mounted the period piece "Quills," by gay writer Doug Wright—dealing with the Marquis de Sade. It had graphic content, as well as extensive frontal male nudity and a dildo onstage.

"We sent out all sorts of newsletters and mailings about it, but we didn't get that much negativity," said Lisa Adler, who serves as Horizon's artistic director and who directed "Quills."

"A few people were upset, but most of the feedback was positive. I guess the audiences coming to it knew exactly what they were in store for. I think it's clear to people the reasons we did it and why it was important."

After "The Bible," Horizon will debut the gay-themed, Pulitzer-Prize nominated "Three Days of Rain," by Richard Greenberg.

INFO

'The Bible: The Complete Word of God (Abridged)'
Horizon Theatre Company
1083 Austin Ave.
404-584-7450
Through March 11

Chris (Chris Ekholm) tells the story of Adam (Rob Cleveland) and the lovely temptress Eve (Matt Johnson) in the Garden of Eden.

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atlanta theater calendar

Neal Hazard is the title character in Soul-stice Repertory's production of 'Othello' at Seven Stages in Little Five Points, Thursday through Sunday.

To add a listing, e-mail calendar@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 34, or fax to 404-876-2709.

opening

LIGHT UP THE SKY Thur thru Mar 18. Satirical look at big-time theater in which New York actors, their director and playwright find themselves in Boston opening a play prior to its Broadway run. Alliance Theatre Company, Woodruff Arts Center, 1280 Peachtree. 404-733-5000.

MAN OF LA MANCHA Thur to Sat, 8 pm; Sun 2 pm. Based on Cervantes' quixotic Don Quixote. Atlanta Lyric Theatre, Ferst Center, Ga Tech. . 404-377-9948.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE Fri thru Feb. 24, 8 pm. Shakespearean comedy.

OTHELLO Thur thru Sun, 8 pm. Shakespearean tragedy. Soul-stice Repertory, Seven Stages, 1105 Euclid. 770-591-3036.

continuing

THE ADVENTURES OF MIGHTY BUG Thru March 17. Follow the insect world's greatest superhero as he battles the evil Scorpiana. The Center for Puppetry Arts. 404-873-3391

THE AMERICA PLAY Thru Feb 24. Suzan Lori-Parks (author of Spike Lee's "Girl Six") presents provocative meditation on what it means to inherit the American Myth. Actor's Express. 404-607-SHOW

THE BIBLE: THE COMPLETE WORD OF GOD (ABRIDGED) Thru March 11. Horizon Theater Company puts the fun back in fundamentalism. Euclid & Austin Ave.'s. 404-584-7450.

FIVE WOMEN WEARING THE SAME DRESS Thru Feb 25. See the play Alan Ball wrote years before he won the Academy Award for the "American Beauty" screenplay. Theatre in the Square. 770-422-8369

HEARTS Thru March 18. New play by Willy Holtzman about a Jewish WWII vet looking back over his life. Woodruff Arts Center. 404-733-4710.

THE HOBBIT Thru Feb 24. J.R.R. Tolkien's classic tale of Middle Earth, wherein Bilbo Baggins battles the evil Smog, is adapted to stage by Edward Mast and the Alliance Children's Theatre. 404-733-4650

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Thru Sun. Feb 18. An unusual inspector arrives to investigates a young woman's mysterious death. Neighborhood Playhouse. 404-373-5311

ROMEO & JULIET Thru Feb 25. Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers. New American Shakespeare Tavern, 499 Peachtree. 404-874-5299.

SWEAT Thru Feb 25. Powerful and inspirational show revealing today's South African contemporary society. 7 Stages, 1105 Euclid. 404-522-0911.

on stage

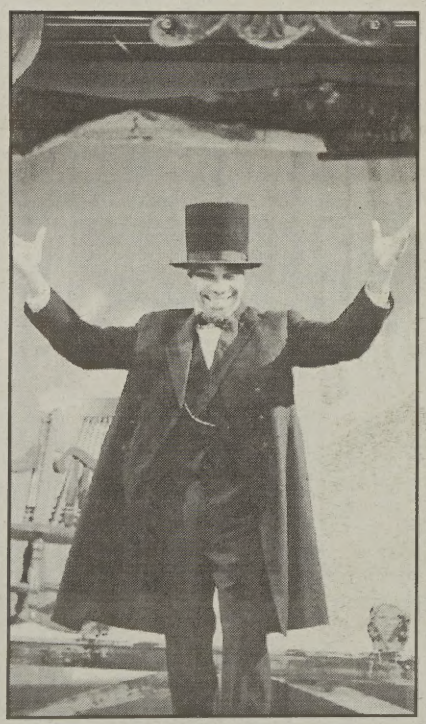
THEATER REVIEWS

by JIM FARMER

Odd drama pokes fun at Americana

'America Play' is clearly the most unusual piece Actor's Express has ever tackled

Hand it to new Actor's Express artistic director Wier Harmon—he hasn't tried to come in and become another Chris Coleman. The obvious tactic might be to emulate what's worked in the past, but heck—Harman hasn't even staged a naked-boy play yet.



Gary Yates plays the Foundling Father, a strange man with an unusual obsession for Abraham Lincoln in 'America Play.'

He has tried to make the company his own, and his AMERICA PLAY is one of the oddest pieces Actor's Express has ever touched.

Written by Suzan-Lori Parks, a playwright who also scripted Spike Lee's "Girl Six," "America Play" begins with a lengthy first-act monologue by a character called the Foundling Father (Gary Yates) who has started an obsession with Abraham Lincoln.

He and his wife have had a life-changing experience at a theme park named The Great Hole and eventually he leaves wife Lucy behind. Winding up at the Great Hole, he even begins dressing like Lincoln, and decides to make a profit by living out the death of the former president—having strangers come by and "assassinate" him while he is enjoying a show at Ford's Theater.

In the second act, we meet the wife (Carol-Mitchell Leon) he has left behind. Lucy is a confidence—one who keeps secrets of the dead—and she and her son Brazil (Robert Singleton) visit the site and try to find the Foundling Father. They all meet in a cathartic ending.

"America Play" has been performed only a few times around the country, and it's not an audience-friendly show. Its themes—the American dream, redemption—are often elusive and more than a bit abstract. Even though it lasts under two hours, it feels a lot longer.

It has no right working, and really doesn't do so. Yet it is haunting in its own way—Yates' cackle before he is "gunned down" is funny and disturbing at the same time.

One gentleman visits nightly with a coin then re-enacts the crime. A newly-married couple also stop by for the thrill. The set by Louisa Thompson is amazing—the "theme park" hall of wonder where the Foundling Father situates himself looks genuinely real.

The odd nature of "America Play" doesn't seem to deter the actors. Yates and Mitchell are both extremely compelling. Singleton carries his end too—and more, lugging coffins across the stage, digging graves. The role is psychologically and physically taxing.

Harman has publicly stated that of his five-play 2000-2001 season, this is his most unorthodox and riskiest. He wasn't exaggerating. "The America Play" is ultimately a failure, but a damn fascinating failure. It's the kind of show meant for lengthy, heated conversation afterwards.

INFO

'America Play'
Actor's Express
Through Feb. 24
404-607-7469

out on the town

SCENES FROM ATLANTA NIGHTLIFE

by LISA Y. HENDERSON

Historical surprise

An Atlanta south side gay club with a divey reputation may well turn out to be the country's oldest known gay bar

I was plowing through the late Toni Cade Bambara's "Those Bones Are Not My Child" when I was pulled up short by a reference to the MARQUETTE. The book is a fictionalized account of the horrific two years a serial murderer stalked Atlanta's black children. Some of the missing and murdered children lived in southwest Atlanta, not far from the 'Quette. "Oldest gay club in America," Bambara wrote, "established around World War I."

Atlanta in the 1920s had street cars, straw hats and—according to Toni Cade Bambara—a black gay bar known as The Marquette.

Is this true? I knew the place had history, but damn! Has the Queasy been rocking for 80 years? I lamented the Marquette Lounge's passing in my first column some months ago, but have since learned that it's reopened a few blocks away. I've been meaning to go, but hadn't counted on a literary reference to spur me.

The Marquette's new digs are in an unmarked, low-slung white and red building on Simpson Road, just east of Ashby Street. The neighborhood is not for the faint of heart, and the fenced parking is a welcome improvement over the old spot. It also might be the biggest change.

The new Marquette is bigger and slightly sanitized, but basically, it's the same old Marquette. The cover charge is still $5; you still get patted down; a little old man is still walking around; it is still ungodly smoky; the crowd is still young.

The music is still bass. The women are still either stone stud or fresh-water—no in-between. The spotlight is still white-hot and merciless. The bathroom is still foul. The walls are still covered with mirrors and red vinyl panels. Raquel Lorde still swishes her ponytail and scissor-kicks in thigh-high boots.

There are still some girls in the back fidna' fight. It's still a family reunion-*cum*-disco, with patrons chatting, milling about and even walking across the stage during performances.

So what's changed? Well, most noticeably, there are far fewer drag queens. Always predominately female, the crowd is now overwhelmingly lesbian. The bathrooms, even if foul, do have toilet paper and–most importantly–curtains in the stalls.

The place is easily three times as big as the old and is on one reassuring level. The MC duties are shared by Dee Franklin–a studly stalwart of the old 'Quette–and Mikel Alexandria, a cute, snappy, narrow-assed boy who also performs.

The night I was there, the infamous Marquette dancers were not on the bill, but I hear they're still around, still nasty as they wanna' be.

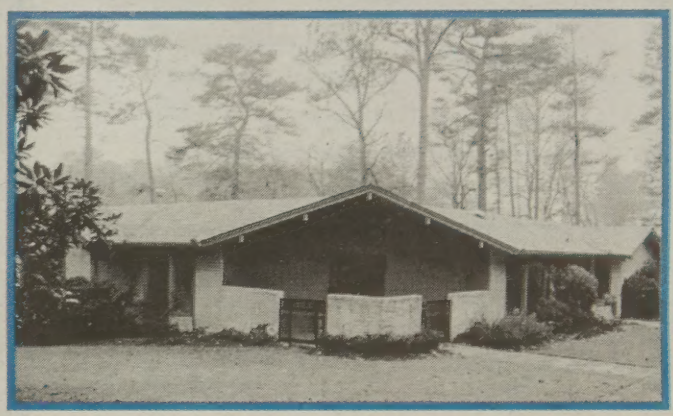
The first act ("the very handsome talents of—China Boy!") was a round-faced baby dyke who inexplicably had young women hollering and throwing dollars.

Some will grumble that the new Marquette has lost some of the edginess of its predecessor and that it's too cleaned up and smoothed out. I disagree. The 'Quette still serves its people uniquely and faithfully. A true testament to the breadth of our community. I may not want to hear the booty-shake remix of Yolanda Adams' "Open My Heart" every day, but when I do, I know where to go.

INFO

Marquette
868 Simpson St. N.W.
404-658-1863

Selling Atlanta



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atlanta eats out

by JONATHAN LERNER

A pizza pie for experts

Urban eatery boasts outstanding edibles and modernist decor

Fritti's formerly industrial building probably dates from around 1910. Its makeover doesn't hide its age, but doesn't yell about it, either. The architectural additions and insertions are modernist, but they don't beat you up with industrial, chic pretension.

Brick walls set the pallet—rose pink through dark rust, with grays, metals, and black. The walls are softened by gorgeous quilted hangings that are not just pretty—they're also sound baffles.

Fabrics are all richly textured. The considerable ceiling height is intervened by a transparent glass awning over the bar and open kitchen that adds intimacy without sacrificing spaciousness.

My only complaint with the design is the banquettes. Like the ones at Bacchanalia, they aren't seats so much as deep benches with small round bolsters.

You can either loll back (half a mile from the table) or sit forward (with no back support). Whoever came up with these things should be made to eat on one for 10 to life.

Never mind. Just (ask for a free-standing table and) start eating. Fritti is a pizza

➢ Continued on Page 17

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food file

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Service: 🍽🍽🍽
Comfort & Aesthetics: 🍽🍽🍽🍽
Value: 🍽🍽🍽🍽
Scene: 🍽🍽🍽🍽

= Stay home and eat cereal
🍽🍽 = Well, if you really must
🍽🍽🍽 = Fine for all but the finnicky
🍽🍽🍽🍽 = Worth more than a 20-minute drive
🍽🍽🍽🍽🍽 = As good as you'll find in this city

Rooti tutti, fresh and Fritti!

➢ Continued from Page 16

place—but this is pizza like Venice is a fishing village, like frescoes are graffiti.

The secret is more than just top quality ingredients. The dough is made of exceptionally fine, soft flour with a high gluten content. This makes it stretchy and light.

The oven fires at 1,200 degrees. The pies only spend two minutes inside, but that's enough to cause the thin dough to bubble up and crisp and to heat but not blast the toppings.

The Trend spotter and I had two, when we went for dinner the other night. We ordered several other things, as well—altogether way more than we could eat.

Two pizzas—each about 10 inches, but thin and light—plus one other dish would feed two normal humans nicely.

Pizza with wild mushrooms and truffle oil was earthily, swoonily delicious. A calzone—a pizza folded over into a pocket—stuffed with fluffy ricotta, oozy mozzarella, spinach and tomato was less erotic but no less delicious.

A platter of mixed fried seafood was superb and simple. Covered in a light, pale goldenrod-colored crust were a heap of calamari, four large plump shrimp, four fat scallops, and several fresh sardines. It comes accompanied by *nothing* other than a half lemon.

The seafood was perfectly fresh; the shrimp were especially delicious and the sardines light and sweet. If you have never eaten fresh sardines, disabuse yourself of everything you believe about the tinned kind—that they are salty, fishy and oily—and head for Fritti now.

> Fritti is a pizza place—but this is pizza like Venice is a fishing village, like frescoes are graffiti.

We also split a tricolor salad, of achingly fresh and crisp arugula, endive and radicchio, in a no-nonsense dressing of good olive oil and lemon juice. My only complaint about any of the food we were served was that the endive was in pieces too long to handle without cutting them in half—not a big deal, after all.

Pizzas are mostly $13. Starters are around $7, except for that mixed seafood platter, at $14.

There are also half a dozen dinners of wood-roasted meats like squab and lamb. They're served with roasted potatoes and vegetables. These are $15-21.

I found the service attitude a bit brash, but then, this is south of Ponce. And no place is perfect.

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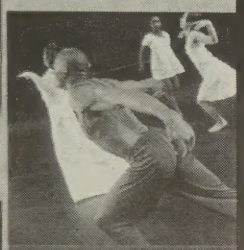
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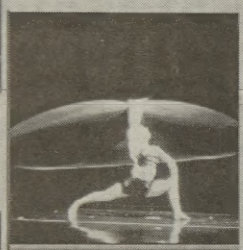
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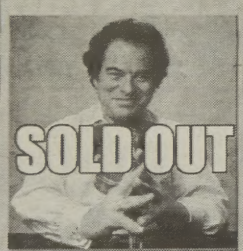
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atlanta/across ga. events calendar

feb. 15-21

compiled by ANDY COLE

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special events

CARNAVAL VERACRUZAÑO Tue, 8 pm. Ballet Folklorico "Quetzalli" with 11-piece ensemble performs Afro-Caribbean music and dance. Variety Playhouse, 1099 Euclid. 404-524-7354.

LOUISE RUNYON & WAYNE M. SMITH Fri, Sat & Sun 8 pm. Dance works performed by lead of Louise Runyon Barth Dance Company and Emory professor of Dance. The Beam, 750 Glenwood Ave. 404-728-8991.

SOUTHEASTERN FLOWER SHOW Wed thru Feb 25. The premier horticulture event in the region. Atlanta Exposition Center, 3650 Jonesboro Rd. 404-888-5638. www.flowershow.org.

SWEET HONEY AND THE ROCK Sat 7 pm. Benefit concert for Fund for Southern Communities, with 30-year old company that performs music from African-American experience: blues, jazz, rap and reggae. Sisters Chapel, Spellman College. 404-292-7600.

lecture/book signings/poetry

JOHN LEWIS Wed. 7 pm. Congressman speaks on "Black Politics, Then and Now," based on his book "Walking With the Wind." Charis Books, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304.

SCOTT L. MALCOMSON Wed 8 pm. Author of "One Drop of Blood: the American Misadventure of Race" discusses and signs his book as part of Atlanta History Center's Black History month events. 130 West Paces Ferry. 404-814-4000.

NADINE STROSSEN Thur 6 pm ACLU's first female president addresses Atlanta Executive Network. Colony Square Sheraton, 14th and Peachtree. 404-523-6201.

drag/cabaret/ comedy

BACKSTREET ATLANTA Thurs. & Sun 1 am; Fri. & Sat 11:30 pm: Charlie Brown's X-Rated Cabaret. Sun, 9 pm: the Armorettes. Backstreet Atlanta, 845 Peachtree. 404-873-1986

BURKHART'S Sun, 7:30 & 10:30 pm: the Gospel Girls. Mon-Thur: karaoke. 1492-F Piedmont. 404-872-4403

LE BUZZ Tue & Thur, 10 pm: Karaoke hosted by Jonathan. 585 Franklin Rd, Marietta. 770-424-1337

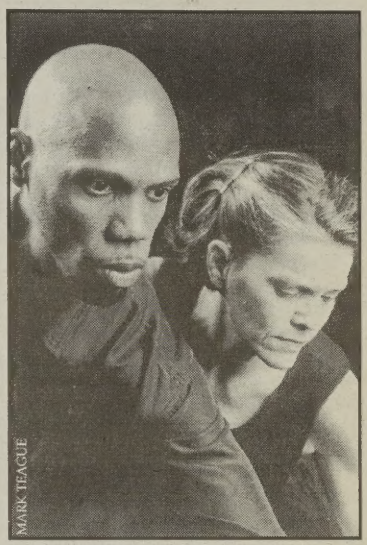
LIBBY'S—A CABARET Sat, 11pm. New York Cabaret series. 3401 Northside Pkwy. 404-237-1943

METRO Thur. Monica Layne's "Drag on the Edge." Mon. Peg's "Mouth of the South Live!" Tue. Latin Night. Wed Regina Sims presents Silhouettes of Illusion. 1080 Peachtree. 404-874-9869

NICKIEMOTO'S Mon, 8:30 pm. "Drag-Amaki" show accompanies dinner. 990 Piedmont Ave. 404-253-2010

THE PUNCHLINE Thur, 7:30 &9:30 pm. Margaret Cho. Wed. thru Feb. 25. Kip Addotta. 290 Hilderbrand. 404-252-0394.

SAMBUCA JAZZ CAFE Live jazz nightly. 3102 Piedmont Rd. 404-237-5299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galleries/exhibits

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF PAPERMAKING Susan Olsen, "Images From Nature," thru Mar 23. 500 Tenth St. 404-894-6663

ART INSTITUTE OF ATLANTA "Interior Designers in Progress." Thru Mar 17. 6600 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd. 770-394-8300

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN "Tropical Orchids: Splendor Under Glass," thru April 30.1345 Piedmont Ave. 404-876-5859

ATLANTA CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER Sara Hornbacher, "A Thousand Plateaus," Gretchen Hupfel, "Horizontal Stabilizer," "Nuova Architettura per Nuove Citta: An Exhibition of the Works of Ten Italian Architects," Thru Mar 10. 535 Means St. 404-688-1970

ATLANTA COLLEGE OF ART GALLERY Vik Muniz, "Reparté." Thru Mar 11. 1280 Peachtree. 404-733-5050.

ATLANTA HISTORY CENTER Two Civil War exhibits, "Eye of the Storm: The Drawings of Private Robert Knox Sneden" & "A View from the Ranks: A Union Soldier Sees the South" celebrate the Center's 75th anniversary. Thru Mar 18. 130 West Paces Ferry. 404-814-4000.

ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM "Visions and Voices: Africa to America." Thru Mar 9. 285 Peachtree Center Ave. 404-688-2467

BARBARA ARCHER GALLERY "Current Work by Atlanta Women Artists," thru Feb 21. 1123 Zonolite Rd. 404-815-1545.

BALLROOM STUDIOS "Poetry Collaborations," a collaborative exhibit with poet Jason Wagner and six visual artists. Thru Mar 1. 107 Luckie. 404-522-2709.

BENNETT STREET GALLERY Work from Alice Williams. Opening reception Fri 7 pm, runs thru Mar 10. 22-F Bennett St. 404-352-8775.

ECLECTIC ELECTRIC GALLERY "light," a 20-minute looped film featuring GardenHouse dance company, showing continuously thru Feb. 24. Eclectic Electric Gallery, 1393 N. Highland. 404-875-2840.

FAY GOLD GALLERY Paintings from Robert Jessup and photos from Joyce Tenneson. Thru Mar 6. 764 Miami Circle. 404-233-3843.

FIRST EXISTENTIALIST CHURCH "Documentary Photography of the Balkans," Eric McAfee. Reception for the photojournalist Fri 7 pm., exhibit thru Feb 28. 470 Candler Park Dr. 404-378-5570.

EYEDRUM Kristine Potter, "Ascension", and Hannah Jones. Thru Feb 25. 253 Trinity. 404-0655.

GEORGIA PERIMETER COLLEGE Linda Parker, "The Inner Nature." Thru Mar 9. 555 N. Indian Creek. 404-244-5795.

HIGH MUSEUM "Art of William Edmonson." Sculptor was first African-American to have one-man show at MOMA. Opens Fri, thru May 19. Also: Galle Glass, thru June 24. 1280 Peachtree St. NE. 404-733-HIGH

LOWE GALLERY Works from Nancy Graves, Suk Ja Kang-Engles and Louis Schneiderman. Thru Mar 2. 75 Bennett St. 404-352-8114. www.lowegallery.com.

MOMUS GALLERY "Suspended Spring." Benefit for Atlanta Botanical Garden Fri, 6pm. Exhibit thru Feb 28. 75 Bennett St. D-2. 404-355-4180.

RAYMOND LAWRENCE GALLERY "Social Alchemy," featuring Rose Marie Prins and Stephen Irwin. Thru Mar 17. 75 Bennett St., Ste. M-1. 404-352-5058.

SANDLER HUDSON GALLERY Amalia Amaki, "Delights." Thru Feb 24. 1831-A Peachtree Rd. 404-350-8480.

SANDY SPRINGS HISTORIC COMMUNITY FOUNDATION Tom Rankin, "Roadside Signs." Exhibit that examines the culture of three rural counties in Tennessee. 135 Hilderbrand, Sandy Springs. 404-851-9111.

SOLOMAN PROJECTS Fascia, "Departure." Multi-media installation, thru Mar 3. 1037 Monroe Dr. 404-875-7100.

SWAN COACH HOUSE GALLERY Cornel Rubino, "Against Nature." Thru Mar 3. 404-266-2636.

THOMAS DEANS & CO. Marek Zulawski, "Works from the 1940s and 1950s." Thru Mar 3. 75 Bennett, Ste. K-2. 404-352-3778.

TRINITY GALLERY New Artists Exhibition, thru Feb 24. 315 East Paces Ferry. 404-240-0092.

film

THE POLICEWOMAN (DIE POLIZISTIN)

Chinese director **Zhang Yang**'s critically acclaimed 'Shower,' about a man who returns to work in his father's bath house, will be screened at the High, Saturday at 8 pm.

Wed 7 pm. Recent policy academy graduate becomes jaded. Goethe Institute Atlanta, 14th and Peachtree. 404-892-2388.

CRUMB Thur 7 pm. Documentary about the life of "wonderground cartoonist" Robert Crumb. Agnes Scott College, 141 E. College Ave., Decatur. 404-296-4023.

SHOWER Sat 8 pm. Chinese director Zhang Yang's bittersweet comedy set in a Beijing bathhouse.

SWING TIME Fri 8 pm. "The best Astaire-Rogers film" according to Roger Ebert. The High Museum's Rich Auditorium. 404-733-4570.

ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW Fri midnight. LeFont Plaza, 1049 Ponce de Leon Ave. 404-873-1939. Also Sat midnight. Raises funds for AIDS Survival Project. Blackwell Theater, 3378 Canton Rd, Marietta. 770-428-2617.

music

2001: A BEETHOVEN ODYSSEY Sun 3 pm. Third of eight recitals in which Brazilian pianist Francisco Silva performs all 32 of Beethoven's recitals. Woodruff Arts Center, 14th and Peachtree. 678-560-9193.

ATLANTA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Thur, Fri & Sat 8 pm. ASO performs Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring" and other pieces. 1293 Peachtree. 404-733-4840.

DEKALB CHORAL GUILD Sat 8pm. "Midwinter's Concert for Lovers." Emerson Student Center, Oglethorpe University, 4484 Peachtree. 404-261-6101.

EDDIE'S ATTIC Sat 7 pm (all ages) & 9:30 (21 &up) Halcyon. 404-377-4976.

JOHN HAMMOND Thur 9pm Blues guitarist at Smith's Old Bar, 1580 Piedmont. 404-524-7354.

MASQUERADE Thur 7:30 Less Than Jake, A Newfound Glory. 404-577-8178

radio

THIS AMERICAN LIFE Sun, 4-5 pm. Ira Glass' showcase of America's weird and wonderful regularly features gay humor writer David Sedaris. WABE 90.1 FM

RADIO FREE GEORGIA Alternative station's shows of interest include "Sister's Time" Thur, 6 pm; "Alternative Talk" Fri, 5 pm; "Lambda Radio Report" Tue, 6 pm. WRFG 89.3 FM

television

OUT TV ATLANTA Thur, 8:30 pm. Check out this fun new local show's reports on ATL's gay scene! Cable 2, 9, 19 or 26. Also Tue, 10:30 pm, on cable 7 in Savannah

WILL & GRACE Thur, 9 pm. Are they ever going to have sex? NBC

MOUTH OF THE SOUTH LIVE! Thur, 11 pm; Sat, 10 pm. Peg's weekly cocktail party; taped live at the Metro on Mondays. People TV, cable channel 12 or 24

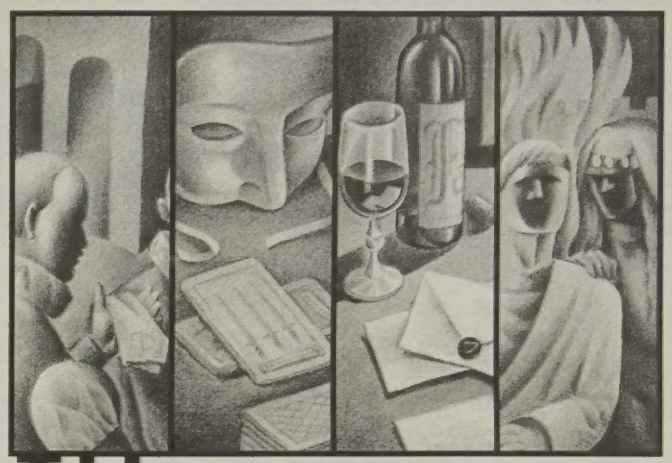
AMERICAN MUSIC SHOW Fri 11 pm; also Sat 11:30 pm: "This is the best show I've ever been on!"—RuPaul. People TV, cable channel 12 or 24

DEAUNDRA PEEK'S TV SHOW Fri 11:30 pm; also Sat 11 pm: People TV, cable channel 12 or 24

QUEER AS FOLK Sun, 10 pm. The U.S. version of the steamy British gay soap opera. SHOWTIME

C1TV Mon, 11 pm. New cable show devoted to gay men and lesbians. Showing censored episodes of "Queer as Folk." Cable 9, 16, 24 or 25

BETTE Wed, 8 pm. Gay community favorite Bette Midler stars in a new sitcom about a superstar wife and mother. CBS



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Men Seeking Men

SHORT N LOVELY
GBM, 38, 5'3", 130lbs, dark complexion, fade cut, HIV+, seeks down-to-earth SM for possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4112

FUN-LOVING
Down-to-earth, laid-back SBM, 25, good conversationalist, likes sports, going to the movies. Seeking SM, 25-40, with similar interest, for LTR. Asheville ☎4111

BEAR ISO COLOR
GWM, 38, 6', 215lbs, bear, loves to travel, cuddle, watch tv, going out. Seeking sexually versatile BM. From vanilla to kink, leather a plus. San Antonio ☎3795

CLEAN-CUT...
muscular male, 5'9", blonde/green, has good attitude, seeks male. Eddy ☎4028

GBM BEAR SEEKS GWM BEAR
GBM, 27, 5'11", 230lbs, black/brown seeks husky, stocky, GWM, 25-40 who enjoys hanging out, cuddling, watching TV, for friendship, possibly more. Avondale Estates ☎3987

LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP
Male, 5'11", brown/green, seeks athletic, faithful male, under 200lbs. Atlanta/Panama city area. Youngstown ☎3986

SEEKING PASSION
SBM, 20, 5'10", 144lbs, black/brown, enjoys amusement parks, video games, movies. Seeking SWM, 18-45, for friendship first, LTR. Macon ☎3985

WANNA GET SOME?
GBM, 21, 7", 215lbs, enjoys hot sex and long endowments. Seeking GW/BM, 20-25. Houston ☎3946

VISITO MARZO
San Antonio 3/9-3/14. Houston 3/15-3/16. Tengo 40 anos, 6', 175lbs, bien paracido. Estoy aprendiendo el espanol. Soy Americano de Los Angeles. Me gustaria conocerte. Los Angeles ☎3883

SHY BOY
Very honest, outgoing WM, 23, 5'7", 150lbs, hazel eyes, owns own business, into anything. Seeking WM, 18-30, for friendship, possibly more. Lyons ☎3791

SEEKING SOMEONE SPECIAL
SWM, 24, 6', brown/blue, enjoys hanging out, clubbing, dining out, sports. Seeking all SB/WM, 20-30, for companionship. Red Bank ☎3790

THE POSSIBILITIES
Handsome GWPM, 35, 185lbs, light brown/hazel, enjoys dinner dates, movies, dancing. Seeking masculine GWM, late 20s-40, for possible LTR. Lilburn ☎4104

YOUNGER FOR OLDER
Handsome, athletic, caring, romantic SHPM, 28, 6', 175lbs, black/brown, seeks attractive SW/HPM, 35-50, in good shape, for dating and more. Atlanta ☎2855

SEEKING FRIENDSHIPS
Male, 5'5", 150lbs, short brown/blue-green, goatee, enjoys movies, tennis, the gym. Seeking spontaneous WM, 30-35, 5'3"-5'8", who enjoys travel and dining out. Conyers ☎4086

LOOKING FOR LTR
Male, 5'10", 162lbs, black/brown, goatee, enjoys music, crossword puzzles, cooking, movies. Seeking a male for committed relationship. Panama City ☎4101

WANNA FIND FREEDOM?
Versatile GWM, 32, 6', 200lbs, brown/blue, enjoys working out, reading, learning languages, travel. Seeking polyamorous male for friendship. Knoxville ☎4102

TAKE A CHANCE
Very good-looking SBM, 6'1", 180lbs, likes dining out, being with friends, having fun. Seeking honest, sincere SBM for dating possible LTR. Atlanta ☎3714

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Well-educated, humorous GWM, 50s, 5'7", 160lbs, brown/gray, clean-shaven, HIV-, enjoys music, books, hiking, biking. Seeking healthy, intelligent GWM, 30s-40s, for warm, loving LTR. Stone Mountain ☎2932

NEW TO ATLANTA
In shape, healthy, intelligent, fun GWM, mid-40s, shaved head, HIV+, seeks fun, outgoing GM for possible LTR. Atlanta ☎3715

FUN GUY
Light-hearted, sensitive WPM, 6'2", 185lbs, brown/brown, loves reading, movies. Seeking upbeat, down-to-earth, spiritual guy for casual dating. Atlanta ☎3538

PARTY BOY
GWM, 25, 6'1", 200lbs, hairy chest, seeks guys 18-30 who love to party, and are looking for fun, fun, fun! New Orleans ☎4057

SEEKS COMPANION
SM, 45, 6', 185lbs, bald, goatee, medium build, HIV+, enjoys quiet times, good food, music, art, dining out. Seeking SM, 30-70, for friendship. Race unimportant. Barnesville ☎3294

KENDRID SPIRIT
Attractive, masculine, successful, secure, romantic GWM, 40 something, top, seeks attractive, younger relationship GWM, bottom, to spoil. Serious only. Atlanta ☎4093

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Sincere, honest, quiet, easygoing GWM, 56, 145lbs, brown/brown, mustache, N/S, N/D, enjoys movies, quiet evenings. Seeking male, 40-60, for relationship. Stone Mountain ☎4088

ATLANTA GUY SEEKS
Outgoing, slender GWM, 36, 6', brown/brown enjoys baseball, movies, parks, seeks honest, sincere mate, for committed relationship. Good-looking a plus. College Park ☎3931

QUALITY
Handsome, athletic, intelligent, nonbar type GWPM, 36, 6'2", 190lbs, good body and great smile, seeks quality GWPM who enjoys travel and dining out for friendship. Atlanta ☎3818

SAVANNA BEACH...
seeks long-term. GWM, 40, 6'2", 220lbs, brown/blue, lives at Tybee Beach. Seeking GWM, 30-65, who enjoys the beach life. For friendship, possible LTR. Tybee Island ☎3852

Been Glanced?

SHEVRON ON SCOTT
2/1, 7:30 pm. You: truck with tool box. Brantley County tag, wonderful smile. Me: old, gray mercedes, interested and shy. Let's have dinner soon. Atlanta ☎4094

PARAGRAPH 175
1/12, you: tall blonde with 3 friends, we missed first show, couldn't join you for coffee, we spoke after the movie, should have exchanged phone numbers. Roswell ☎4059

ANSLEY KROGER
01/29/01 You: denim jacket, great smile. Me: gray t-shirt. Met you again at intersection. You went on Monroe. I turned. Went back, you were gone. Atlanta ☎4056

SUNTRUST-STOCKBRIDGE
You wore yellowish shirt, had sideburns, dark hair. I had on red parka, walking down main hall. You stopped to look back. Dinner? Atlanta ☎4016

MID-TOWN HIGHRISE
Sunday, 1/14. You were in lobby of condo, I on floor above you. Have dark hair; we exchanged glances. Would love for us to meet. Atlanta ☎4004

MATT FLYING BISCUIT
1/15, we sat at counter together. You: rehab houses, PE Midtown, Morningside. Me (Brian): Federal Gov't/MARTA, Fitness Factory, Candler Park. Let's chat more. Dinner? Atlanta ☎3966

12/25 BURKHARTS
Phillip - remember the Gem at the bottom of the ocean? Lost you!!! Please call. Let's get together soon! Atlanta ☎3932

BP STATION 14TH ST..
01/02/01. You: Black Saab 9.3. Me: Blue Volvo, Delta License Plate Number. We kept looking at each other. I waved goodbye. What about dinner? Atlanta." Atlanta ☎3892

CACTUS CARWASH
1/4: you had blue BMW, I had black Honda Civic, we talked briefly. Interested in meeting for dinner, call me. Decatur ☎3890

ANSLEY STARBUCKS
Handsome man, green truck. You waved, I waved. Let's meet. Powder Springs ☎4058

NEIL DIAMOND
Mary's karaoke, 01/16/01. Mies will not be pleased if you don't call your private dancer. Atlanta ☎4017

ELECTION NIGHT
Light, Piedmont and Monroe. You in rental, me black Mazda. Followed me to Burkhoris parking lot; never made it back for drink, please call. Atlanta ☎3822

ARBY'S AT N. DRUID..
Hills. You were at window, I was at table across from you. I was reading "From the Corner of His Eye." You seized the night. Atlanta ☎3845

NOW INTERVIEWING...
tall, handsome, affectionate, witty, hirsute GWM, 30s-40s, N/S, for possible LTR. Interviews conducted by attractive, honest, romantic GWM, 37. Atlanta ☎3515

A REAL DATE
GWM, 37, 6'1", 185lbs, brown/blue, honesty, integrity, good humor, weights/swimmer, HIV positive, very healthy. Seeking dinner dates, open to ideas. You: 28-40, with healthy attitude. Atlanta ☎3930

PASSIONATE
SBM, 26, 5'6", 150lbs, short hair, chocolate complexion, musician, seeks SM for friendship first, possible committed LTR. Atlanta ☎4031

GOOD CATCH
WPM, 27, 5'8", 160lbs, brown/blue, in shape, medium build, nice smile, enjoys reading, movies, dining out, cooking, travel. Seeking well-educated, masculine WPM, 25-35, for LTR. Atlanta ☎3773

SEXY BLACK MALE
SBM, 27, 6'9", likes quiet evenings at home, movies, sports. Seeking a special person to spend quality time with. Race unimportant. Savannah ☎3896

WM SEEKS BM
Attractive, unique male, 39, 6'1", 195lbs, seeks same in secure, diverse, open-minded top BM. Atlanta ☎4085

COMPANIONSHIP
Honest, sincere GBM, 33, HIV+, seeks secure GBM for friendship first, possible committed, long-term relationship. Atlanta ☎4042

NE GA COUNTRY MAN
Naturally masculine outdoor guy, rugged yet sensitive, blue-collar type yet educated, well off yet live simply. SM, 38, good-looking, muscular, likes slim, masculine guys. Cornelia, Alto ☎3817

TIME TO FIND...
each other. German, 34, 5'8", 136lbs, blonde/blue, seeks large, hairy, burly, bear top with love handles and nice big gut. I'm serious. You be too. Alapharetta ☎3706

COUNTRY BOY
GM, enjoys camping, hiking, singing, music, looking for someone, 25-30, who's down-to-earth, well-endowed, well-built. Is there anyone near me? Lafollette ☎4018

COUNTRY BOY
WM, 28, 6', 168lbs, blond/blue, seeks male under 30, loves country music, outdoors. All calls answered. Mount Airy ☎1880

LOOKING FOR A BLOND
SHM, 31, 5'8", 170lbs. dark/dark, enjoys pets, country, animals, music, going to movies. Seeking outgoing, blond male for LTR. Asheville ☎3998

SEEKING JUST ONE
GBM, 31, 5'7", 151lbs, HIV+, wants to get to know a down-to-earth, honest male for friendship, possibly more. Atlanta ☎3996

COUNTRY BOY
GWM, 36, 5'6", 160lbs, N/S, social drinker, clean-shaven, seeks masculine, down-to-earth SM for friendship first, possible LTR. ☎3961

DECIDE IT NOW
GHM, 30, 5'8", 150lbs, N/S, enjoys many activities. Seeking GM, for friendship, possible LTR. Serious replies only. Hendersonville ☎3776

GOOD QUALITY
GWCM, 28, enjoys movies, plays, working out and more. Seeking healthy GBCM, 30-40, with similar interests. For friendship, dating, LTR. Atlanta. Clarkston ☎3774

SHY & SWEET
Tall GWM, 28, seeks strong, romantic top, 21-40, for possible LTR, Atlanta area. Norcross ☎3656

ATTRACTIVE GUY
WM, 45, 5'10", light/hazel, likes movies, pool, bowling, dining out. Seeking naturally hairless SWM, 18-25, for LTR. New Orleans ☎4082

SMART AND SEXY
Handsome SM, 5'7", 165lbs, likes travel, quiet evenings at home, movies, sports. Seeking honest, outgoing SM for dating possibly more. Atlanta ☎3894

COMMITMENT AND...
friendship. Slim SBM, 21, 6'2", 169lbs, sideburns, short hair, likes basketball and tennis. Seeking professional, goal-oriented male for dining and quiet nights. Atlanta ☎4080

BLUE-COLLARED
Nice-looking, witty GWM, 41, 5'10", 165lbs, shaved head, in good shape, enjoys music, dining, nature. Seeking GWM, 32-52, hairy/facial hair a plus, for companionship. Atlanta ☎3307

SEEKING PASSION
SWM, 51, 6'3", 270lbs, D/D-free, total bottom, likes animals. Seeking passionate, romantic SM, top, for dating. Black male preferred. Atlanta ☎3680

IT ALL STARTS HERE
Attractive SBM, 43, seeks honest, secure, outgoing SM with great sense of humor for friendship that may develop into something more. Race/age unimportant. Gainesville ☎3908

SEEKING A GREAT GUY
SWM, 5'7", 160lbs, short brown/brown, seeks masculine SM for friendship first, possible committed LTR. Atlanta ☎4008

SEEKING COMPANION
Attractive, masculine, financially secure GBM, 38, 5'11", 195lbs, seeks GBM for friendship and companionship. All calls will be answered. Lithonia ☎3376

HARD-WORKING, CARING
BPM, HIV+, 5'10", 178lbs, 40s, enjoys exercise, dining in and out, cozy evenings, and more. Seeking similar, sincere male, any race, possible LTR. Dunwoody area. ☎4019

MASCULINE AND SEXY
GBM, 37, 155lbs, HIV+, seeks sports-minded GWM, 30-38, who enjoys working out, dancing, dining. Honesty a must. Atlanta ☎4095

NICE GUYS FINISH...
First! Genuine, nice guy GWM, 39, 5'9", 165lbs, brown/brown enjoys running, working-out. Family/friends are very important, old fashioned dating, possibly more. No games. ☎4092

WANNA WRESTLE?
WM, 6', 190lbs, 49, gray/blue, in very good shape, works out, seeks others interested in wrestling/maybe more. Atlanta ☎3970

NICE & EASY
GWM, 50s, 150lbs, HIV+, seeks like male with whom to share talking, walking, movies, and quiet times. Atlanta ☎3968

SEEK LOVE, HAPPINESS
Affectionate, caring BM, 49, 5'9", 201lbs, seeks attractive, caring, sensitive SM, 55+, for cuddling and companionship. Normal ☎3978

RUGGED AND SENSITIVE
Creative, artistic SM, 46, 5'9", dark/hazel, medium build, enjoys working out, theater, plays, movies, music. Seeking outgoing, stable, fun male, social drinker. Atlanta ☎3975

DO ME RIGHT
Down-to-earth, clean-shaven GWM, 48, 5'10", 160lbs, blond/blue, with old-fashioned values, seeks quality GWM for LTR. N/Drugs, N/S. ☎3749

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QUALITY MAN SEEKS...
same. Humorous, down-to-earth GWJP male, 39, 6', 230lbs, blond/blue, seeks sincere, loving, monogamous, spiritual GPM, 29-49, facial hair a+, for dating, possible LTR. Tucker ☎3621

MR. MONOGAMY HERE
Honest, sincere, cute GWM, 39, 5'7", 145lbs, dark brown/hazel, with sense of humor, enjoys travel, music, reading, running, cooking. Seeking male, D/D-free, social drinker. Decatur ☎3824

SEEKING ADVENTURE
Attractive, affectionate, honest, romantic GWM, 40, 6", 190lbs, brown/brown, seeks laid-back, non-scene GM for possible LTR. Atlanta ☎3928

PROFESSIONAL
Attractive, relationship-oriented male, 43, 185lbs, salt-n-pepper/brown, enjoys sports, dining out, movies, travel. Seeking good-looking, successful PM, for dating, possibly more. Atlanta ☎3642

MASCULINE GUY
WM, 6', 180lbs, brown/blue, well-built, athletic, professional, seeks a laid-back, mainstream guy, 35-45, for possible dates or maybe LTR. Atlanta ☎3775

SEEK SOMETHING REAL
SM, 18, 5'8", 240lbs, black/brown, enjoys, movies, going out with friends, clubs, reading, dining out, conversation. Seeking down-to-earth, honest SM for possible LTR. Powder Springs ☎3665

SEEK HONESTY
SBPM, 6'2", 220lbs, brown eyes, enjoys theater, sports, dining out, cooking, evenings at home. Seeking sincere, honest SPM for possible LTR. Martinez ☎3698

SOMEONE JUST LIKE ME
SWM, 46, 5'9", 155lbs, brown/blue, moustache, easy to get along with, seeks male, 35-55, for friendship/relationship. Please be sincere, honest, humorous. All replies answered. Mountain City ☎3369

WM BEAR
6'3", 225lbs, brown/brown, seeks slim to skinny, down-to-earth, spiritual male, 30-45, with Christian ethics, N/Drugs, non-alcoholic, all calls answered. Macon ☎3933

EBONY SEEKS IVORY
GBM, 38, 6'2", 195lbs, enjoys movies, dining out, quiet evenings at home. Seeking attractive, well-built, masculine GWM, 30s-40s, N/S, light drinker, for friendship possibly more. Knoxville ☎3919

LONELY IN NE GEORGIA
GWM, 68, 5'8", 185lbs, some hair, hazel eyes, lonely in NE Georgia mountains, seeks companion to keep me warm. Clarkesville ☎3889

ALL APPLY
Handsome, educated, chocolate-completed, masculine, sexy, romantic, passionate GBM, 48, 6', 175lbs, HIV+, seeks same in GM, 40-55, for serious relationship. Atlanta ☎3880

RENAISSANCE GUY
Fit, intellectual, creative, adventuresome, fun GWM, 41, 6', 185lbs, seeks younger guy, under 30, to explore new limits. Alpharetta ☎3820

HIRSUTE PURSUIT
GWPM boomer, bear, 5'9", 175lbs, brown/hazel, buzz cut/goatee, seeks hairy-chested, honest, husky WM for companionship. Conyers ☎3573

HONEST GWM
Caring GWM, 46, 6'3", 186lbs, salt-n-pepper/blue, moustache, HIV+, very healthy, seeks same in GM, for long-term relationship only. Watkinsville ☎3451

DEAF MUTE
Cute, sweet male, 20, knows karate, seeks smart mathematician, macho Latino/white man, 18-35, D/D-free, N/S, who enjoys swimming, karate, hanging out all day and night. Nashville ☎3704

HOME & HEARTH
GWM, 29, 6', 180lbs, enjoys reading, snuggling by the fireplace, candlelight dinners, horseback riding, dogs, gardening, shopping, romantic movies. The Golden Girls. Seeking LTR. Atlanta ☎4021

DISCRETION ASSURED
Female type GWM, 52, 5'7", 175lbs, brown/green, seeks masculine SH/WM, 55+, for daytime dating, must be D/D-free, and N/S. Pensacola ☎3967

Women Seeking Women

FEMME SCULPTOR
Adorable GWF, 29, 5'5", H/W proportionate, artistic, athletic, down-to-earth. Seeking feminine GWF, 26-45, N/S, confident, open, career and goal-oriented, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎3580

HERE WE GO AGAIN
Petite, athletic-built WPF, 41, enjoys golf, movies, music, beach, mountains, reading. Seeking honest female, 35-50, good sense of humor, for friendship first, possible LTR. Waleska ☎3036

BE MY VALENTINE
Attractive GWPF, 40s, enjoys candlelight dinner, travel, beaches, mountains, outdoors. Seeks feminine GWF. Lawrenceville. Kennesaw ☎3895

EUREKA!
Vegan SWF, 5'5", 120lbs, brown/hazel, likes bookstores, intelligent conversations over herbal tea. Seeking femme or soft butch female, 18-23, for possible LTR. Columbus ☎3980

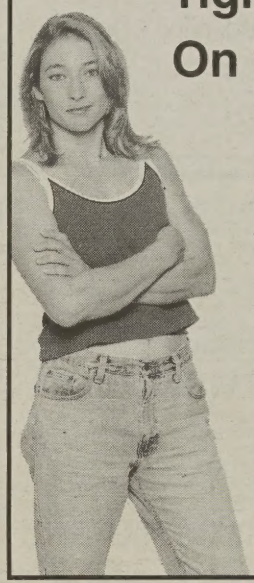
JUST DO IT
Attractive, healthy, spiritual GWF, seeks similar friend for spending time together and maybe more. Tucker ☎3885

BEAUTIFUL ONES
Spiritual, independent, health-conscious, fun-loving SBF, 5'5", 140lbs, dread locks, seeks feminine, higher-conscience BF. College Park ☎3920

SEARCH FOR SOULMATE
Feminine GWF, 41, 5'7", 136lbs, brown/blue, likes the beach, movies, dining out. Seeking butch female, 35+, for dating and friendship possibly more. Snellville ☎3918

She might just walk right into your life.

On the other hand, she might not.



Want to wait and see?

You can spend a long time hoping love will come your way. Or you can find her today in the personals.

Listen and respond to ads using your credit card

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Call costs $2.29 per minute. Must be 18+.

SoVo Connections

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SEEKS FRIEND
Femme SWF seeks butch, race unimportant, for friendship, movies, walks, possibly more. ☎3964

VERY OUTGOING
Down-to-earth, outgoing, versatile single female, 19, likes rapping, writing poetry, working in the studio. Seeking female for friendship first, possibly more. College Park ☎4079

FRIENDSHIP IS BASIC
Honest, friendly, caring GBPF, medium height/weight, non-smoker, one child, loves movies, hugs, candlelight evenings, bicycling. Seeking similar BF, 38+, friendship first. New Orleans ☎3514

ARE YOU READY?
Hard-working, goal-oriented GBF, 35, homebody, enjoys movies, plays, museums, intellectually stimulating conversation. Seeking SF for friendship first, possible LTR. South Decatur ☎4023

GIRLS JUST WANNA
have fun! GW femme, 40ish, 5'8", reddish-brown/green, into hiking, biking, camping, kayaking, anything outdoors, many more interests. Ready to have some fun with soft-butch. Kennesaw ☎3819

NEW TO ATLANTA
Outgoing, attractive GPF, 37, medium build, brown/hazel, enjoys walks in the park, sports, movies, travel, stimulating conversation. Seeking GF, with similar interests, for friendship/possible LTR. Atlanta ☎4077

NORTH GEORGIA
GWF, 46, 5'4", 135lbs, brown/green, lonely in North Georgia mountain, hopeless romantic, seeks same. Clarkesville ☎3884

SEEKING COMMITMENT
SF, 25, 5'7", 150lbs, jet black/brown, enjoys shopping, tennis, basketball. Seeking female, who knows what she wants out of life, for committed relationship. College Park ☎3982

FAITHFUL & DEDICATED
SWF, 32, 5'3", brown/brown, enjoys outdoors, hiking, camping, movies, quiet evenings. Seeking honest, open minded, career/goal oriented SF, 25-45, for friendship, possible relationship. Chattanooga ☎3965

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Feminine GBF, 42, 5'4", enjoys cooking, quiet times, walks in the park. Seeking soft butch, 35-50, race unimportant, for friendship, possible LTR. No games. Atlanta ☎4015

ARE YOU THE ONE?
Attractive, intelligent, artistic, biracial female, 25, 5'5", medium build, seeks down-to-earth, intelligent, honest, attractive female, 19-27, with slender build. Westwego ☎3516

READY FOR FUN?
Full-figured SWF, 40, 5'1", light brown/blue, enjoys B&W classic movies, comedies, reading, sightseeing, walks. Seeking SF for friendship first, possible committed LTR. Atlanta ☎4043

BRAINS AND LOOKS
If you are seeking a cross between Xena and Scarlett, look no further. GWPF, top. Interests are fine dining, music, conversation, dancing. N/S. Lake Lanier. Gainesville ☎4014

ONE OF A KIND
Roman/blue, enjoys fishing, outdoor/indoor activities, variety of interests. Seeking GWF, 35-65, for friendship first, possible LTR, to spend holidays with. Manchester ☎3572

STRONG BLACK STUD
Versatile GBF, 31, 5'5", employed, enjoys clubs and country music. Seeking beautiful GF, 25-45, for casual relationship leading to LTR. Houston ☎3799

LOOK SOUTH FOR...
A/HF for successful, humorous, slim, fit, passionate Englishman. Seeking LTR with sensual, intelligent, warm-hearted, communicative woman, 24-38, preferably long-haired, petiteish. Metairie ☎3969

THAT CERTAIN SOMEONE
SF, 46, 5'4", 128lbs, blonde/hazel, enjoys music, cats. Seeking outgoing, rambunctious, yet quiet person for LTR. Pearl River ☎3981

SEEKING PROFESSIONAL
SWF, 40, seeks honest, sincere, feminine PF, 30-40, with depth, who likes outdoor activities, cooking, and spending time with friends. No games. Mathews ☎3976

WONDERFUL, MY LOVE
Health-conscious, creative, intelligent, very attractive Puerto Rican GF, 5'6", 140lbs, soft butch, cat lover, enjoys dancing, reading, concerts. Seeking attractive GW/HF, 45-60, for LTR. Kenner ☎3622

SPIRITUAL LESBIAN...
seeks same 45-60, N/S, N/D, N/Drugs, with whom to laugh, sing, dance, have fun, share life and love. Friends first but seeking LTR. Decatur ☎4091

DESTINY CALLS
Romantic, attractive, honest GWPF, 40s, N/S, N/D, likes travel, cuddling, movies, dining out, good conversation. Seeking GWPF with similar interests. Tucker ☎4051

ACTIVE
Healthy GWF, 45, 5'2", H/W proportionate, enjoys beach, mountains, tennis, reading, weekend escapades. Seeking female, 40-60, similar interests. McDonough ☎3821

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN
Female, 5'3", 135lbs, dark brown/green, enjoys reading, movies, tennis, biking. Seeking female for casual dating. Decatur ☎3772

FREE-SPIRITED CANCER
Authentic, joyful, tender, spontaneous female, seeks mutual respect, dignity, purpose, and an enriching relationship. I am as beautiful as are you. ☎3739

LET'S BE FRIENDS
Fun GBF, 27, 5'3", enjoys reading, going out to movies, and hanging out. Seeking GBF, 25-27, 5'1"-5'3". Race unimportant. Kids ok. Atlanta ☎4013

ONE-ON-ONE FOR 2001
GBF, enjoys social events, dancing. Seeking outgoing, honest, sincere, down-to-earth SF, 40+, N/S, N/Drugs, for friendship first possibly more. Norcross ☎3687

Just Friends

LEFT OF CENTER
Intelligent, witty, attractive GWF, 37, enjoys gardening, soccer, music, books, movies, wine. Seeking warm, intelligent, attractive SF for friendship first, possible LTR. Decatur ☎4126

COLLEGE GUY
GWM, 22, blond/blue, medium build, seeks GM, 18-35, for friendship, fun, dating, possible LTR. Serious replies only. Fort Walton Beach ☎4105

LOOKING FOR FUN
BM, 22, 5'4", 140lbs, brown/brown, clean-cut, muscular, enjoys working out. Seeking other men with whom to hang out. Marrero ☎4087

ONE-OF-A-KIND
Romantic, loving GWF, 5'8", blonde/green, enjoys outdoor and indoor activities. Seeking GBF for friendship first, possible LTR. Aiken ☎4089

A NEW BEGINNING
Down-to-earth, easygoing GBF, 51, 5'3", good shape, soft butch, enjoys music, romantic evenings, dining, outdoors, fishing, animals. Seeking GF, 40-55, N/Drugs, for friendship/possible LTR. Stockbridge ☎4067

VERSATILE
Dominant and Submissive SM, 36, seeks male playmates for playing house, fantasy fulfillment. Serious calls only. River Ridge ☎4027

NEED A FRIEND?
GWF, 48, enjoys outdoors, dining, intelligent conversation. Seeking GWF, 36+, for friendship. Covington ☎3956

ROMANCE IS OFTEN...
fleeting, but friendships tend to endure. Easygoing GBF, 45, feminine, attractive, seeks GBF friends, 40-60, who enjoy books, intelligent conversation, movies, music, and laughter. Atlanta ☎3891

SINGLE GAY MOTHERS?
Single lesbian, 29, seeks other grounded lesbians, giving serious thought to or attempting single parenthood. Let's share ideas, fears, hopes, and offer mutual support. Atlanta Atlanta ☎3888

LOOKING
SBF, 39, 5'3", 130lbs, seeks SW/BF, to spend time with for friendship and companionship. Atlanta ☎3878

SEEKING FRIEND
West Indian female, 5'5", 125lbs, dreadlocks, enjoys movies, theater, social events, art, card games, backgammon. Seeking caring female with common sense, for friendship. Atlanta ☎3786

ALL THAT &...
good looks, too! Laid-back, self-possessed, funny GWF, 39, enjoys dancing, playing pool, and outdoor activities. Seeking SF, 30-55, for friendship. Warner Robins ☎3640

WOMEN SCRABBLE CLUB
Scrabble and word game group forming, you don't have to be great at scrabble, just enjoy it. Decatur ☎3382

Bisexuals

SMART HUNK!
Laid-back BiWM, 18, 5'10, 165lbs, blonde/hazel, enjoys horseback riding, music, cooking, and blue-eyed boys with blond hair. Seeking muscular, masculine SBM, 18-27, for casual dating. Hull ☎3886

NEW & EXCITING
This Bi-curious HM, 30, 150lbs, black/black, enjoys travel, playing soccer. Seeking first time experience with a man, for close friendship. Marietta ☎4128

TV/TS

FRENCH MAID
Cute WM, 39, loves to clean in maid's attire, seeks professional male or female, for occasional, no strings, pampering. Atlanta ☎4020

SEXY...
sweet, honest, tender, gentle sex-change transsexual, 28, 40D-26-36, very convincing, seeks male companion. Atlanta ☎3823

LOOKING FOR FUN
White transvestite, 22, 6'2", seeks open-minded, masculine SM, 18-28, 6'2"+, top, looks/weight unimportant, for fun times. Smyrna ☎4026

GOLD DUST WOMAN
Vivacious, attractive WTS, 26, blonde, seeks open-minded gentleman, 25-40, for conversations, fun times, candlelight, and a glass of wine. Worth your wait. No games/married men! Atlanta ☎2549

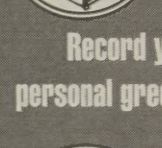
SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER
Open-minded, smart, energetic, kind, caring individual 5'9", 145lbs, blonde/brown, not afraid of being male, seeks warm, fun, strong-minded individual, 25-40, looks unimportant. Worth the call. Fayetteville ☎2736

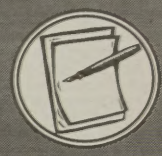
SoVo Connections

PLACE YOUR FREE AD, CALL 1-800-457-3094

Call to place your FREE personal

Record your personal greeting





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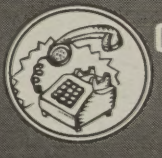
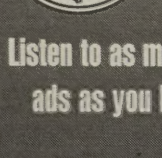
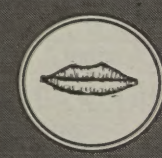


Call the number above

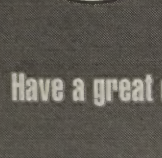
Listen to as many ads as you like



Leave messages for those that intrigue you



Have a great date!



Guidelines: Southern Voice personals are for adults 18 or over seeking long-term monogamous relationships. To ensure your safety, carefully screen all responses. First meetings should always occur in a public place. Abbreviations are permitted only to indicate gender preference, race, and religion. We suggest your ad contain a self-description, age range, lifestyle and avocations. Ads and voice messages containing explicit sexual language will not be accepted. This publication reserves the right to revise copy containing objectionable phrases; to reject in its sole discretion any advertisement on account of its text. An advertiser's print ad may be renewed on the date the corresponding voice greeting box expires or thereafter. This publication assumes no responsibility for the content or reply to any Southern Voice ad. The advertiser assumes complete liability for the content and all replies to any advertisement or recorded message, and for all claims made against this publication and its agents as a result thereof. The advertiser agrees to indemnify and hold this publication, its employees and its agents harmless from all costs, expenses, (including reasonable attorney fees), liabilities and damages resulting from or caused by the publication or recording placed by the advertiser or any reply to any such advertisement. By using Southern Voice, the advertiser agrees not to leave his/her phone number, last name, or address in his/her voice greeting.

atlanta classifieds

Atlanta Classifieds deadline is Monday at noon

Adult Services

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Internet Profiles in an atmosphere of privacy and security. Successful matches since 1993.

FOR MEN ONLY!

Meet other Atlanta Men by phone 404-351-1112 use free code 9000.

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Guys seeking unforgettable experiences! Don't miss out. Record/Listen to ads FREE 24 hours a day! 912-352-3429 FREE code 8000.

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MEET LOCAL MEN FOR DATING, OR CONVERSATION. RECORD/ LISTEN/RESPOND TO ADS FREE! 205-916-0007 CODE 4100.

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Columbus, GA

Tops & Bottoms await! Listen & Record ads FREE! 706-653-7745 code 4000.

AIDS & HIV Services & Education

NATIONAL AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES for MINORITIES will be facilitating a support group for men who are HIV positive and have AIDS. Every Wednesday 6pm til 7:30pm, 2001 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr, suite 602 404-753-2900 ext 17.

YOGA for AIDS & HIV

Jaya Devi Yoga Studio offers ongoing yoga classes for people living with HIV. Learn a holistic approach to healing the body, mind, heart and spirit. Use yoga and breathwork to strengthen your body, boost your ability to heal, and develop a deeper awareness of your Self. Reduce stress and tension with relaxation and meditation on healing, achieving a wonderful sense of peace and well-being. Jaya Devi Yoga Studio 312C North Highland Ave. Atlanta, GA 30307 404-688-6757

Home But Not Alone- Enjoy reduced rent and comfortable housing. Fast placements, homes now available! No waiting list. Share with a person living with HIV. Call Rita at 770-395-2625.

HOME BUT NOT ALONE!

HOMES ARE NEEDED with spare rooms for rent sharing with people living w/HIV! References checked and each client is carefully screened. Contact 770-395-2546.

The Atlanta Harm Reduction Center is a grassroots street outreach program whose focus is to stop the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, by providing information, condoms, referrals, and more to the people who are underserved in our communities. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Please donate some of your time and energy. For more info write to: A.H.R.C. 1020 DeKalb Ave NE suite 17, Atlanta, Ga 30307, or call 404-526-9222. AHRAATLANTA@JUNO.COM

SisterLove, Inc. seeks volunteers to strengthen our fight against HIV/AIDS. Provide office support, do street outreach, join our Speakers Bureau, develop fund-raising strategies, work on special events or share your unique skills. SisterLove provides prevention education, outreach and transitional housing for women affected By HIV/AIDS. Call 404-753-7733.

Announcements

Swiss Team Anyone?
Bridge- Spring- D.C.
www.bridgeblossom.com

The Atlanta Long Term Ombudsman Program is recruiting volunteers for the March training class. Only 6 applicants will be selected. If you have a genuine concern for the elderly in nursing homes and personal care homes, Please call 404-371-3806 for more information. Application deadline is March 12, 2001.

Mature Women Healthy Living

Women 60-80 years young , come join the fun of healthy living. Meet to exercise & share. Get out of the house and get moving. Call between 8 & 10am or leave a message. Avondale Estates Area. 404-296-6693

WEST GEORGIA GAY & LESBIAN

RESOURCE CENTER- A cyberspace resource center serving the W.Ga. gay & lesbian community. Includes a bulletin board, chat room, personals, and local, regional and national resource links. http://www.truthtree.com/westga

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HOUSE CLEANING SPECIAL

Now taking on new clients. Qualified, dependable & honest staff. Competitive pricing & quality service. Call David, 404-235-5920.

Commercial, residential, industrial, & post construction cleaning. Floor work. Carpets. FREE estimates cheerfully given in person. Locally owned. Licensed & insured. Call Mark 404-317-7267.

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The environmentally-safe house cleaning service. Available in Midtown, Ansley Park, Virginia Highlands, Morningside, Druid Hills, Decatur and Grant Park. Karen 404-248-6336.

Computers

Computer Problems??? Repairs, upgrades and training done at reasonable rates. Call Steve 404-294-4053.

Employment • Full

ACCOUNTANT

CPA seeks full or part-time Bookkeeping/Tax Accountant to post transactions into bookkeeping software, reconcile bank accounts, keypunch/process tax returns. Experience with bookkeeping software, Word/ Excel, & tax prep. preferred. Casual Morningside office, flexible hrs., great boss! $15+/hr. based on experience. FAX resume & references to 404-872-2464 or e-mail to randy@vivid.net

Restaurant

ALL STAFF needed, hiring full and part-time for all shifts. Contact Management at Denny's, 1935 Piedmont Circle, 404-874-4522. Drug free workplace, EEOC.

Women's Resort Staff

Camp Pleiades near Asheville, NC. May-September. Salary, room, board. Flexible, friendly, creative women, enjoy people, being outdoors. Cook, housekeeping/kitchen, kids camp counselor. 904-241-3050. Starcamp@aol.com.

Men's Mtn Retreat

In NE Tennessee seeks housekeeping, maintenance, & cook staff. Please respond to P.O Box 383 Duffield VA. 24244 or 1-800-568-2191.

Collectors

Full time and part time positions available. $10+ an hour. Flexible schedule, 404-685-8803.

Medical Receptionist

Seeking motivated individual w/great people skills for busy 1 Dr. practice. Experience required. Buckhead/ Midtown Office. Full-time 404-351-5015

Real Estate investment company seeks assistant property manager for intown location. Please fax resume to 770-393-0047.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Experienced w/fund-raising, accounting grants, and personnel. Prefer MBA/MPA. Reply Scott Ford -BAO Box 550070, Birmingham AL, 35255.

BIRMINGHAM CLUB

seeks QUALITY male dancers. Excellent income potential. NO NUDITY. Call 205-746-7055.

Staff Writer

Join the nation's fastest growing lesbian and gay newspaper. Southern Voice is the flagship newspaper in the expanding Window Media Group. Southern Voice seeks a motivated, hardworking individual with at least two years of journalism experience. Excellent hard news writing, copy-editing skills and communication are a must. Proficiency w/Microsoft Word is preferred but not required. Highly competitive salary and benefits. Southern Voice and Window Media are EOE. Be a part of the South's leading lesbian and gay newspaper, and the nation's largest lesbian and gay newspaper group. Send your resume (no phone calls, please) to: Personnel- Southern Voice 1075 Zonolite Rd., Suite 1-D, Atlanta, GA 30306. Fax 404-876-2709, e-mail: editor@sovo.com

Rapidly Growing Courier Co.

Great income driving for Gay-owned Courier Company. Full/Part time, flexible hours. Must own reliable transportation. Call Dan: 404-627-8011.

Sales Expert

Southern Voice seeks an energetic, MOTIVATED, Sales leader. We are the fastest growing Gay & Lesbian newspaper in the southeast. You: offer us 3 years minimum sales experience. We: offer you Great commission & benefits, along with being a part of our growing regional publication. All qualified, interested individuals are urged to mail resumes to Southern Voice, Human Resources, 1075 Zonolite Rd. Suite 1-D, Atlanta, GA. 30306 or fax to 404-876-2709, or e-mail hr@sovo.com

CONSTRUCTION WORK ASST.

Must have truck or Van. Career potential. Call 770-640-0223.

Employment • Part

Barista wanted for P/T help. Apply in person at Sacred Grounds Coffee Shop, 510 Flat Shoals Ave SE. 404-223-0089.

Join the Black Tie Team

Now hiring for P/T servers & bartenders. Upscale clientele, flexible schedules & diverse work locations. A great second job for students, actors, empty nesters, models or flight attendants. Pursue your interests and work when you want to. Reliable transportation required. More information at 770-234-0707, e-mail blacktie@mindspring.com

AID THE ELDERLY

A special kind of work that pays to:

*Reminisce *Play cards
*Run Errands *Go Shopping
*Prepare Meals *Do Housework
*Enjoy Conversation & Fun

Part-Time day, evening and/or weekend hours aiding seniors in their homes. Car required. Home Instead Senior Care. Call 770-392-1070.

Work From Home

It is possible to make $1200/mo part time and $6000/mo full time & more. Will train. Call for free recorded info, 24hrs. 1-888-819-2410.

Receptionist

Part-Time receptionist needed for busy Midtown Medical Practice. Must have excellent telephone and interpersonal skills. Please call 404-265-4922. Or fax resumes to 404-265-6634.

Valentine's Delivery

Help Cupid with his deliveries. Great income driving for Gay-owned Courier Company. Full/Part time, flexible hours. Must own reliable transportation. Call Dan: 404-627-8011.

Employment • Seeking

Situation Wanted! Mature male seeks position as a companion/live-in care giver. Possible duties, errands/appts/cooking/ cleaning. Buckhead area/Druid Hills/ Midtown. 404-876-1665.

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Individual/small businesses. Over 15 years experience, Electronic Filing Available. In Office or on site. Evening appointments available. Boerner BK Services Inc. 404-636-4686.

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in your home. 15 years experience. Individual & small business returns. Bookkeeping service available. Call Stewart 678-937-0928 for an appointment.

Furniture

Queen Futon

Queen size black framed (metal) Futon! With very nice mattress & cover ($100 new for cover alone). Total asking price $150. or make offer. Anthony 404-523-8261.

You Can E-mail Your Classified Ad! mkitchens@sovo.com

Send your name, address, phone number, # of weeks the ad will run, plus a credit card number and expiration date for payment. See Southern Voice for rates or call 404-876-1819 ext. 15.

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Gay & Lesbian psychotherapy group. Emory Psychotherapy clinic. Meets weekly- reduced fee. Call 404-727-0399.

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He's So Handy!

Handyman Services and Renovation. Specializing in Tile, Painting, Carpentry, Plumbing & Electrical. Serving our community for over 5 years! Call Shawn McGuire 404-408-7748.

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25 years experience under my tool belt with renovations, carpentry, tile painting, plumbing and electrical. Free estimates. Call Barry 404-664-9823.

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Spray away those painful sores with a glutaTHIONE + selenium antioxidant Spray. Why wait ten days? Watch them disappear in just a few days. Now available without prescription. THIONE 888-844-6468.

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F.D.A. approved vacuum pump/surgical enlargement. Gain 1"-3". Permanent, safe. Resolve impotence. FREE Brochure: Dr. Joel Kaplan, (312)-458-9966. Latest enlargement information 900-976-PUMP ($2.95/min).

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Master Carpenter

Kitchens, baths, cabinetry, counter tops, built ins, trim, general carpentry, 23 years experience, licensed & insured, John 770-484-6830.

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Private instruction, evenings and weekends available. Intermediate to advanced students and adults desiring technique refresher. Experienced professional musician. 404-351-0829.

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Kate James, CMT

Utilizing Deep Tissue, Swedish, Sports, and/or Sensual massage techniques, to create the perfect environment for a womans' enjoyment. 404-293-4825 or kate.newberry@netzero.com

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Complete bodywork by masculine black male. Dedicated, down to earth, and dependable. Accepting Visa/MC CMT Chris 404-817-0575.

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Full body massage Parasympathetic, Deep Tissue, Sports, Zen Touch, Swedish, & much more, with a 1000 hours fit HHP/CMT. Discreet, Novices Welcome. Call Vince 404-870-0791.

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A relaxing, full-body massage, professionally trained experienced therapist. Combining Swedish, shiatsu, & reflexology for a great massage. In/out great rates. Mike 770-309-4490 or 404-247-8118.

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Full body massage by a mature masculine man with strong and gentle hands to make you feel good from head to toe. By Dwight - Certified Massage Therapist. 404-315-1551. Del4watr@aol.com.

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Tyler is a loyal, affectionate cocker spaniel who needs a beeter home. He loves going for walks, riding in the car, and laying by your feet. He's 9 years old, neutered, all shots, housebroken, and some obedience. He needs some one who is retired, works from home, or home a lot ... he suffers separation anxiety. He's not been exposed to children, but has lived with dogs and cats. He's truly a love and best friend. If this sounds like a match for you call John 404-622-4599.

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Real Estate • Commercial

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GRANT PARK- 2BR/1BA, Large kitchen, den w/built-in book cases, study, large porch & deck, fenced yard. Central Heat/AC, W/D, dishwasher. GAS, WATER, & cable included. $1300/mo. Security deposit & credit check. 770-934-5029. Available 03/01/01.

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ORMEWOOD PARK

707 Woodland Ave. Charming 1BR in a quadraplex, hardwood floors, large bedroom. $590/mo. 770-903-7150.

GRANT PARK- Nice renovated 2BR duplex on very transitional street. Funky area but coming up strong. Great guys in front unit. Gay Flag Flying. Call Phyllis 404-377-1349. Deposit $600, rent $595/mo. AC, washer, new kitchen, hardwoods, ceramic tile, partial carpet. Big back yard, one pet OK. 1339 Miller Reed Ave. Unit B. One year lease & background check a must.

HISTORIC KIRKWOOD, 2BR/1BA, recent renovation, central HVAC, hardwoods & tile, security, W/D hookup, very charming cottage. $795/mo, pets negotiable. 404-377-6552.

MIDTOWN

Cozy 1 BR cottage, private entrance, A/C, shared laundry. $800/mo including utilities, 404-607-8105, available March 1st.

Small 1/BR apartment near Peachtree/ Dekalb Airport. C/H/A, stack W/D in unit. No Pets. Deposit/Credit check required. $595/mo. 404-261-4220.

CONDOS FOR RENT

BUCKHEAD'S #1 HIGHRISE
1BR/1.5BA- $1095/MO
CUSTOM 2BR/2BA- $1595/MO
Pride Realty Inc. 404-352-5570.
" Because there's no place like home."
www.PrideRealty.com

Apartment in Little 5pts

1BR/1BA, 1124 Colquitt Ave. Central H/A, hardwood floors, off-street parking. $850/mo. Call 404-231-1473.

City of Decatur Duplex

2BR/1BA- 112 E. Maple, 1 block from square, Central H/A, 1500 sqft. $1000/mo. Call 404-231-1473

Perimeter Mall Area- 5BR/3BA, comfortable house in quiet neighborhood. Hardwoods floors, fireplace, sunroom, Mother-In-Law suite. $1750/mo. 404-577-4433.

Dekalb County/Brookhaven area behind MARTA station, Beautiful 4BR/2BA home for lease, 2497 Dostanaulla Dr. Freshly painted, electric AC, gas heat. $1400/mo, $1000 deposit, good credit, no pets. Please Call 404-307-7054.

CONDO FOR LEASE

Walk to Piedmont Park. Charming 2BR/1BA newly renovated loft-like condo with private patio & great view. W/D on premise. Minimum 1/year lease. Available now. $1250/mo includes cable. 404-634-7263.

MORNINGSIDE

1302 Lanier Blvd. 3BR/1BA renovated brick bungalow w/garage. New stainless steel kitchen. Excellent location, walk to shops/restaurants. Please call 678-640-5311, or 770-640-0223.

Hapeville

Attn: Delta & Wachovia employees-minutes from downtown. 4BR/1BA, 2/car garage, newly renovated, fireplace, hardwoods, C/H&A 1/year warranty. $92,500 404-388-3537

DeKalb Co/ Brookhaven

By owner: Beautiful renovated 3BR/1.5BA in great location. Separate DR/Den, bright kitchen & private, landscaped yard w/deck & patio. 2092 Fairway Cir. $254,900 by appt. only 404-320-6622. Agents welcome.

Decatur-Okhrst Bungalow!

Fabulous Renovation in Charming, Diverse Neighborhood! Front Porch, Hardwoods, Neutral Tones throughout, 9' Ceilings, New Bright Kitchen, Private Fenced Backyard with Deck, 2BR/2-full BAs, Fireplace, Security System, blocks from 4 new Restaurants/Bars, 1 mile from Decatur Square, more ... $215,000. Agents protected. 404-373-5119 by Owner. Open Sunday 1-5.

Candler Pk. Triplex

$390,000- Great Opportunity to own a large renovated house in the heart of L5Pts and apply the rent from two 1/BR units toward the mortgage. Main unit is 2BR/1BA, hardwood floors, C/AC, laundry room. No Agents please. Details 404-325-5487

E.Point/ Jefferson Pk

3BR/2BA, Newly renovated, $149,000. Owner Flexible, 2479 Bayard St. Contact Lance 770-498-9389.

Decatur Condo

Walk downtown. Prestigious Swanton Hill, Swim/Tennis community. 2BR/2.5BA. Fireplace, hardwoods, bonus room. $200k- 109 Woodbury Pl. 770-547-4655.

DECATUR

Oakhurst! 3BR/1BA Craftsman near Oakhurst Village. Renovated with high ceilings, hardwood floor, separate DR, new kitchen, 2/fpl. large front porch and back deck, new sys. $214,900 Call Bill RE/MAX Metro Atlanta 404-310-7906.

LAKE JACKSON

From Cottages to Castles! Lakefront homes from $119,000 to $650,000. Several feature separate guest suites. Call Lori Crawford, Dover Realty 706-468-1525.

EAST ATLANTA

Victorian- hi quality total renovation. RESTORED: diamond, paned windows, fireplaces, oak decking on veranda porch. NEW: HVAC, plumbing, electrical, flooring, walls, skylights, mouldings, everything. ADDED: Closets/storage space. Deck/off street parking. 3BR/2.5BA, separate laundry. OWNER: 404-392-1144. OPEN HOUSE Sunday 2:00-5:00pm.

MIDTOWN

751 Piedmont Ave #13. 2BR/2.5BA Townhome w/garage. Hardwoods, fireplace, balcony overlooking courtyard. Walk to shops & restaurants. $248,500. T. Reed 404-874-0083.

Cabbagetown

2BR/1.5BA + bonus room, partial hardwoods, Large Living Room & Den. Central Air. Front Porch & screened back porch. Large fenced backyard. Walk-in Attic. Room for remodeling. Great older house with great neighbors. $175,000. No reasonable offer refused Call 404-688-4310 to make appointment.

BUCKHEAD'S #1 HI-RISE CONDOS

1BRs -$140's,2BRs-$190's.*** CUSTOM 1BR UNIT! $147,900. Fabulous location, secured property, pool, Fitness Center, garage, clubroom. "Because there's no place like home." Pride Realty, Inc. 404-352-5570. www.PrideRealty.com. CHESHIRE PLACE CONDO UNIT $118,000.

You Can E-mail Your Classified Ad! mkitchens@sovo.com

Send your name, address, phone number, # of weeks the ad will run, plus a credit card number and expiration date for payment. See Southern Voice for rates or call 404-876-1819 ext. 15.

BEACH HOMES

Looking for the perfect vacation or retirement home/condo? Consider the beach communities of Seaside, Seagrove and Grayton Beach, Florida. White sand, emerald water, old Florida cottages and great shopping! Call Chris Cash at 1-800-994-5030 or e-mail: cash@30Arealty.com.

Real Estate-Houses for Rent

EAST POINT

Newly renovated 2BR/1BA, new kitchen/stove, hardwood floors, screened front porch. Near downtown/MARTA, W/D connection, off street parking, $900/mo + deposit 404-762-7239.

Roommates

SMYRNA-Post Village, GWPM seeks same to share 2BR/2BA. $475/mo + 1/2 utilities & deposit. Call 770-319-9801 or 678-358-4944.

Northlake- GWF seeks same to share large 4BR/2.5BA house w/fireplace, dog friendly, fenced, parking, gay friendly neighborhood. Great location. $550/mo + 1/2 utilities & deposit. 770-455-3919.

W. Buckhead- minutes to Midtown, Lenox & Vinings. Professional GWM seeking same to share 2BR/2BA, 1800sqft. house on quiet street. W/D, bedroom furnished if needed, N/S, Must love cats. $500 + utilities. $500 security deposit. 404-593-8237.

Golf Club of Georgia, liberal male seeks professional for 4000sf, new luxury home on the Golf Course in Alpharetta. $350 deposit, $750/mo includes all utilities. References required. Call 770-569-1999.

Grant Park- GM to share 2BR/1.5BA. W/D, deck. Must like cats. N/S, 500.00 month. Michael 404-624-4979, no calls after 10:00pm.

GWM seeks neat, responsible GWM to share 3BR/2BA in Midtown/Buckhead area $500 includes utilities & pool. $150 deposit. 678-596-7461.

Hot East Atlanta-GWM to share 3BR/2BA house w/fireplace. Off street driveway, fenced backyard. $500/mo utilities included + deposit. 404-627-7727.

Master bedroom, available immediately for female. Great neighborhood north of Tucker. Garage/basement storage. $450/mo + 1/2 utilities. Pets negotiable. 404-234-9019.

Georgetown @ Shallowford/I-85. 15 minutes to Midtown/Decatur. $450/mo includes utilities, except phone -GWM seeking responsible roommate for 2BR condo. Nonsmoker preferred. 770-452-0040.

The Gay Roommate Service

Call Bill 404-264-1536

Responsible GWM seeks same to share 3BR/2BA in Decatur. $500/mo plus 1/2 utilities. No pets or inside smoking. 404-286-7884.

N.DRUID HILLS/BRIARCLIFF/EMORY. GW Males seek neat, responsible, professional (28-38), nonsmoker to share 3BR/2.5BA luxury home w/washer/dryer, 1st floor hardwoods, fireplace, den/office, maid. $375/mo + 1/3 utilities, $150 security deposit. 404-636-2161.

CROSS CREEK - BUCKHEAD. GWF & GWM seek roommate to share spacious condo. 3BR/2BA, W/D, DW, Fireplace. $575 plus elec & phone. Pool, golf course & gym on site. 404-367-0403.

DECATUR - GWM for roommate in 2/BR apt. $450/mo 1/2 utilities 1/2 deposit. Move in before March 5. 404-371-0149.

Kennesaw, 20 minutes to midtown. 2/GM's seek GM to share spacious 3BR/2BA house. Large backyard, W/D, furnished bedroom. $300/mo + 1/3 utilities & security deposit. No drugs/smoking. 770-975-0354.

MIDTOWN

Midtown-Responsible GWM seeks same to share 4BR/3BA large house w 3/GWMs, maid, pool table, gourmet kitchen, parking. $500/mo + deposit + 1/4 utilities. 404-607-1050. Chad.

MIDTOWN- Share 4BR/2.5BA house on 9th St. Two blocks from Blake's. Handsome, spacious home. Seeking " quality" housemate. Students okay. $525/mo. 404-888-0888.

Services

MOVING?

Executive Moving Service! We do homes, apartments & offices. Dependable, professional movers, 770-879-5015. "we take the STRESS out of moving."

Travel

PROVINCETOWN

Rent Sunday thru Sunday, new construction, 3BR/2.5BA. Spectacular Views, near center of Town. Chefs kitchen, air conditioned. 404-892-4310.

Metro Atlanta Suite

Prime Buckhead location, Awesome Accommodations, Reasonable Rates, Short or Long Term. 404-352-5570, PrideRealty.com.

Give your sweetheart the sweetest nights in town at HELLO B&B. 404-892-8111.

BLACK BEAR CABIN RENTALS

"a great place to hibernate". Blue Ridge Georgia 1-888-90CABIN (2-2246). www.blackbearcabinrentals.com.

GA Mountain Getaway

Cozy cabin by Lake Burton: huge fireplace for winter, deck/dock for summer. Hiking, swimming, antiquing, touring ... or just loafing! 404-521-0630.

Travel/ Vacation Rentals

LAKE HARTWELL

If you are looking for a fabulous vacation rental on Lake Hartwell, please go to www.rentlakehartwell-homes.com

Volunteers

Designated Driver

Volunteers work in teams of two taking impaired individuals AND their cars home from sponsoring Midtown and Virginia Highlands locations. Volunteers needed every night from 9:30pm to closing. Volunteers must be 18 or older and have a valid driver's license and no felony criminal or driving convictions. Designated Drivers Association of Atlanta, Inc. 678-479-9997. HAVE FUN! SAVE LIVES!.

Your Face On TV

Looking for broad mix of on-camera volunteer talent for a series of public service spots for People TV Atlanta. No Exp. necessary. Check http://members.aol.com/peopletvatlanta for more information.

Volunteer Facilitator

Needed for HIV Support Group. Lead AIDS Survival Projects's Monday Night Positively Living Support Group. Each Monday 7:30-9:30pm. The group is open to Men & Women who are living w/HIV. Prefer that the facilitator has training in social work, psychology, or sociology. Group exp. preferred. Any Interested persons should call Terri Wilder at 404-874-7926 ext 13.

NATIONAL AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES for MINORITIES is seeking volunteers for the following areas: special events, bar & club outreach, clerical support, house monitor, food pantry, clothing closet, fund raising, yard maintenance, group facilitation, and education. Volunteer training available monthly. Please contact Jala at 404-753-2900, ext 17.

The south metro youth council for the American Red Cross is seeking volunteers/youth council members for varied activities. We have a calender of events for the 2001 term. Please call 770-506-4233 for info.

Help a child

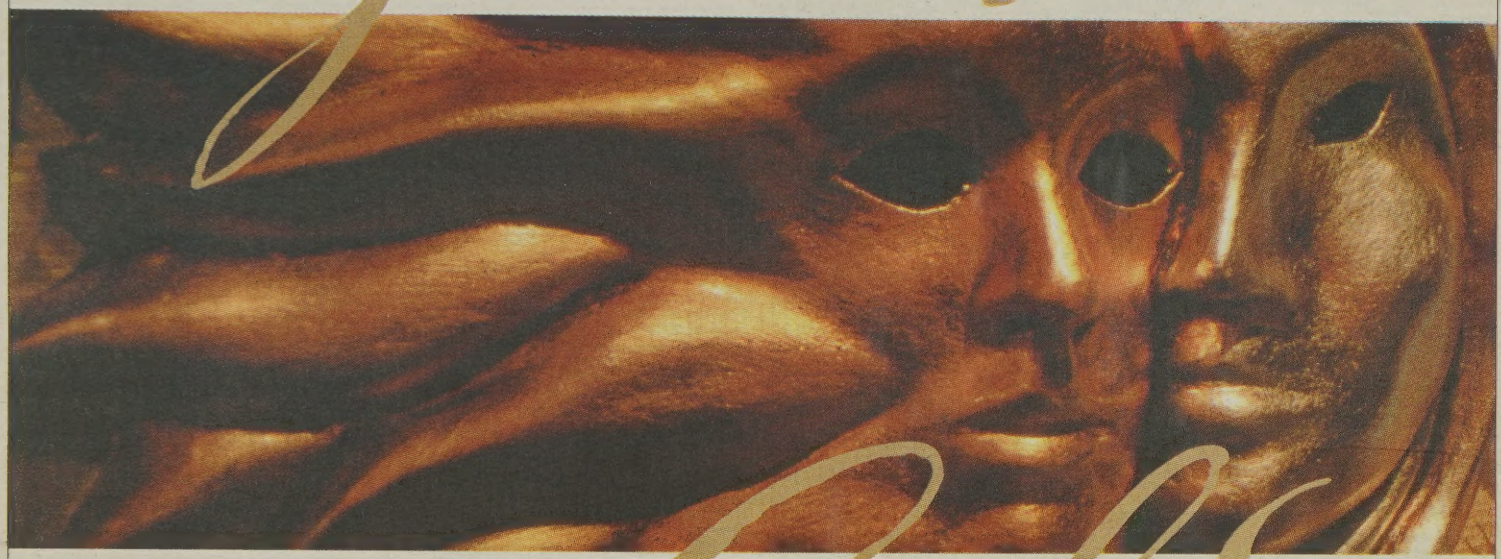
AID Atlanta is looking for responsible adults who have one morning a week available to volunteer in the playroom at the Grady Ponce de Leon Center. You would be caring for HIV-infected and affected children 10 years and younger. For more information please call Jack Schiffman, M.Ed., Pediatric Coordinator, at 404-870-7810.

The Ga. Council on Child Abuse is a statewide, nonprofit, child abuse prevention agency. Volunteers are needed in a variety of opportunities. For more information on volunteering please call 404-870-6573.

You Can E-mail Your Classified Ad! mkitchens@sovo.com

Send your name, address, phone number, # of weeks the ad will run, plus a credit card number and expiration date for payment. See Southern Voice for rates or call 404-876-1819 ext. 15.

all that *Glitters*



is Masquerade *Gold*

Enjoy a 24-karat evening of fine dining and music to benefit Project Open Hand.

A good time never goes out of style—neither does a good cause. This year, show how much you care by supporting **Masquerade Gold on Sunday, February 25th, 2001.** You'll enjoy a special treat when jazz vocalist **Diane Schuur and her quartet take to the stage for a live musical performance** to wrap up the evening's festivities. So don't miss out on this golden opportunity! Tickets are currently available at the Platinum level for $1,000, Gold level at $500, and Silver level at $350. All ticket levels also include seated dinner and open bar for two, silent auction, valet parking, and thank you gifts. For more information or reservations, call 404-872-8089.

Project Open Hand/Atlanta prepares and delivers fresh meals to Atlanta's men, women and children living with AIDS and other critical illnesses. Since 1988, over 4 million meals have been provided to those in need.

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